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Friday, April 6, 1984

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Jemayel aides sent to Syria in truce bid

BEIRUT — President Amin Jemayel yesterday launched a campaign to speed the peace process in his war-devastated nation, dispatching two of his most senior aides to Damascus for talks with Syrian and Saudi Arabian mediators.

The two presidential advisers, Jean Obeid and Michel Samaha, conferred in Damascus with Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam. Obeid then left for Beirut, while Samaha stayed on and conferred with Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese-born Saudi mediator, who also arrived in Damascus yesterday. Hariri met twice with Khaddam.

At the same time, the leftist Beirut daily *Al-Safir*, which is usually informed on matters related to the Lebanese opposition, said Druse leader Walid Jumblatt was due in Damascus yesterday, for talks with the Syrian, Saudi and Lebanese diplomats.

The flurry of talks in Damascus was designed to prepare for a summit conference between Jemayel

and Syrian President Hafez Assad, according to sources in both governments.

One palace official in Beirut said the top-level meeting could be held as early as next Wednesday.

Jemayel turned to Assad for help last month in a dramatic change of policy, abandoning his reliance on the U.S. and restoring Syria to the central role it had played in Lebanon since it sent troops to stop the 1975-76 civil war.

In Damascus, a spokesman at the presidential palace said as the envoys arrived that no official date had yet been set for any summit. But Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara was quoted in a magazine interview this week as saying it is likely Jemayel and Assad will meet very soon.

Meanwhile, there was a 90-minute duel between Lebanese Army troops and Druse gunners around Souk Al-Gharb, 12 kilometres east of Beirut, shortly after midnight Wednesday and another brief exchange yesterday.

Special interview with 'Post'

Arens: Syria thinks we'll quit

By HIRSH GOODMAN Post Defence Correspondent

Israel favours negotiating a separation of forces with the Syrians in Lebanon, but the Syrians have turned down all overtures for either direct or indirect talks, according to Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* (Page 5), Arens said that neither Israel nor the Syrians wish uncontrolled escalation, "so we certainly think it would be advantageous to have a separation of forces and get the UN between us."

Arens said, however, that because the Syrians believe that Israel will pull out of Lebanon unilaterally in a short while, they have no incentive to speak or negotiate.

The minister attributed the Syrian position directly to the criticism of Israel's role in Lebanon in the Israeli press, and the general public mood. "The debate in Israel has weakened our position. I'm 100 per cent convinced of that," he said.

'Open door' policy for Lebanese ends

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ

Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA — Israel is adopting a new policy on the entry of Lebanese civilians into the country, following the terrorist attack in Jerusalem on Monday by three persons who crossed the border from Lebanon.

Yesterday dozens of Lebanese were denied entrance visas at the northern crossings, in contrast to the previous policy under which virtually any Lebanese wishing to enter Israel was permitted to do so. Previously, potential visitors had

only to say they wished to visit the holy places in Jerusalem to gain entry. Now, border officials are asking tougher and more extensive questions, designed to weed out sources of possible trouble.

The Israel Defence Forces has also beefed up security at the Awali River crossings. Merchants who must cross the river daily have complained that such intensified precautions have been delaying them unnecessarily and the IDF has issued them special passes to speed up their passage.



Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres (standing), who was unanimously elected yesterday as his party's candidate for the premiership, shakes hands with longtime rival Yitzhak Rabin as former president Yitzhak Navon looks on. (IPPA)

Focus on Lebanon as Eban meets Mubarak

By MARK SEGAL

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

CAIRO — Israel's continuing presence in Lebanon remains the chief obstacle to any improvement in Israeli-Egyptian relations, President Hosni Mubarak yesterday told Alignment Knesset member Abba Eban.

Eban, who concluded two days of talks with top Egyptian officials at the invitation of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali, met with Mubarak yesterday morning for 75 minutes.

The former foreign minister said afterwards that the Egyptian leader had reiterated his deep desire to adhere to the peace treaty signed by his predecessor, the late Anwar Sadat. Eban related having expressed to Mubarak his satisfaction that both countries wish to honour the peace agreement, but regretted that relations are not warmer.

Mubarak in response criticized

the Israeli military presence in Lebanon and the lack of progress in the Camp David process, especially as regards the Palestinian issue. Mubarak hoped that later in the year diplomatic initiatives might be launched that would break the deadlock, Eban said.

Eban came away from his meetings worried lest the peace process become stunted by lack of communication between the two sides, and urged his Egyptian hosts to renew contacts at all levels of government. He invited Ghali to come to Israel on a reciprocal visit, but the Egyptian minister did not commit himself.

In his talks with the Egyptian establishment, Eban said he felt a considerable measure of disappointment in the lack of enthusiasm for the peace treaty and development (Continued on Page 15).

Captive Israeli Druse shown on TV

TEL AVIV (Itim) — Israeli Druse

soldier, Samir Assad, who has been held as a prisoner in Lebanon by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was seen on Israel Television's *Mabat* programme in film given to the American ABC-TV network by his captors.

Assad, from Beit Jaan near Acre, said in Hebrew: "I am the soldier Samir Mohammed Assad, personal number 3353588, rank: sergeant, who

served in the military government of Sidon, speaking to you at the end of the month of March, 1984.

"I was taken prisoner by the forces of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Warm greetings to my parents and all my family, to my mother and father and all my friends. I hope that you and the government will do whatever is necessary to obtain my freedom."

Labour displays unity under jubilant Peres

By SARAH HONIG

Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV — In a demonstration of party unity, Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres was unanimously elected yesterday by the Labour central committee as the party's nominee for the premiership. Former president Yitzhak Navon was elected to the committee and to the party political bureau.

Peres, Navon and former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared together with smiles and effusive praise for each other.

"We three could have appeared as rivals," Peres said. "Instead we are here as a threesome who are seeking to do battle together and not with each other. We are the nucleus of a broader team that seeks to overcome the hurdles in Israel's path."

The meeting at the Ohel Shem auditorium seemed to many more like a victory celebration than the opening of an election campaign. Party activists clearly relished the talk of cooperation that replaced former quarrels in Labour. One central party figure quipped: "This is the first committee meeting in a

long time in which you don't need to wear a protective helmet."

The largely ceremonial committee session marked Navon's return to active politics. He delivered a speech in which he vowed to do his utmost to help bring down the Likud government.

Peres, Navon and Rabin were all greeted with thunderous applause as they entered the auditorium. Navon embraced Peres and shook hands with Rabin.

Peres's election was largely formal. There was no one opposing him, and no one voted against him although one elderly member shouted before being hushed: "We must elect Navon or we're all lost."

Peres's speech reminded many of the committee members of his buoyant tone when he defeated Rabin in the 1960 party convention. He was self-assured, in high spirits and often beaming. "There are better times ahead," he declared. "This is a great hour for the whole movement."

He singled out each of the top Labourites for praise, starting with party secretary-general Haim Bar-Lev, whom he called "a most wonderful partner, a friend as firm as a rock, whose honesty and dedication have contributed greatly

to the party."

He then turned to Rabin, until recently his arch-rival. "The movement owes Rabin a great debt of gratitude for his ability to delve deeply into the heart of an issue and for his ability to surmount the past and turn over a new leaf in our real relations. Without him we would not have been able to arrive at this great moment."

Navon was described by Peres as "a most beloved president. We met over 30 years ago when we both worked with Ben-Gurion whom we both aspired to emulate. I have no doubt that Navon's contribution to the party will be unique and special. He brings with him the best wishes and the hopes of many. If we win the elections, he will receive a very important national responsibility."

Peres said the election will not only be a time of criticism but also of hope and optimism. "No media genius can describe the seven bad years of the Likud as a retroactive success. Success belongs to the future."

The Likud's illusions have all burst, Peres asserted. "There is no peace in the land, no new order in Lebanon, no energy without electricity, no stockmarket profits

(Continued on Page 15)

Sharon firm on challenging Shamir

By SARAH HONIG

Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV — Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon declared yesterday that he will challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the Herut central committee session next Thursday, notwithstanding Deputy Premier David Levy's decision not to take Shamir on after all.

Sharon made it clear that he will not be swayed by any appeals or by the decisions of other politicians. Both Shamir and Levy called on him to withdraw and party activists tried to get him to change his mind, but to no avail.

Herut Party insiders have not shut the door on the possibility that Sharon may undergo a last minute change of heart. The most Sharon can hope for in Thursday's Herut showdown is the support of 10 to 15 per cent of the some 1,000 committee members. More than that would be very surprising and a real

achievement for Sharon.

Herut people consider that Sharon has hardly any choice but to run. He has nothing to lose. He is extremely frustrated at not being awarded a key cabinet post by Shamir after helping the premier defeat Levy after former prime minister Menachem Begin's resignation.

If Sharon is ever to make a claim for a say in the cabinet, he could back his demands much more convincingly, it is said in Herut, if he could point to a certain bloc of supporters in the Herut forums. Even if he wins only 10 per cent of the vote, he could later use this support for or against any future candidate in an internal Herut power struggle.

Meanwhile, Herut is wondering about the political plans of Begin's son, Ze'ev Binjamin. There are rumours in the party that he plans to stand as a candidate for the Knesset.

The younger Begin is reported to have telephoned Levy shortly before the latter went to Shamir's office Wednesday evening to inform him of his decision. Begin is said to have told Levy that it would be best for the party's interests if he decided not to challenge Shamir.

It is not known if this was said with his father's blessing, but in Herut the telephone call is coupled with the elder Begin's invitation to Shamir the evening before and with his statement on Galei Zahal (the Israel Defence Forces radio) to the effect that a showdown in Herut is undesirable.

Joshua Brillanti adds: Defence Minister Moshe Arens yesterday accused his predecessor, Ariel Sharon, of harming the Likud's chances in the elections by attacking the government's policy and making a challenge for the top Likud post.

(Continued on Page 15)

U.S. aid to W. Bank, Gaza 'helps pacify Palestinians'

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The over \$5 million that the U.S. government allocates annually to development projects in the West Bank and Gaza aids Israel's policy of "pacifying" the local Palestinian population rather than fostering its community development. This is the basic conclusion of the latest research paper by Dr. Meron Benvenisti's "West Bank Data Base Project," released yesterday.

The study finds that Israeli intervention in the way the aid is

implemented, through the approval, delay or disapproval of various projects, alters the emphasis in order to support its policy of allowing individual prosperity while curbing communal development. This is also the, probably inadvertent, result of matching funds provided by the Jordanian government.

U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz recently emphasized financial aid to the Palestinians in the territories as being a new initiative to "improve their quality of life." This initiative has become something of

a political issue and State Department officials have visited the area while the former Defence Ministry Coordinator of Activities in the Areas Tax Aluf (Res.) Binjamin Ben Eliezer recently visited Washington.

Benvenisti analysed 358 projects involving some \$66 million by the AID voluntary programme in the

U.S. between 1977 and 1983. These projects were proposed and implemented by three major private voluntary organizations active in development projects in the West Bank and Gaza — American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), the Community Development Foundation and the Catholic Relief Ser-

(Continued on Page 15)

Ministry considers merging Shaare Zedek, Bikur Cholim

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A committee appointed three weeks ago by Health Ministry Director-General Professor Baruch Modan is studying the possibility of merging Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek and Bikur Cholim hospitals.

The committee is headed by Dr. Moshe Mashiah, director of the ministry's hospital services, and includes Bikur Cholim's director, Prof. Shlomo Stein.

Yitzhak Shomron, senior aide to Health Minister Eliezer Shostak, told *The Jerusalem Post* that a merger might solve the financial problems of both hospitals. It could also be "suited to Jerusalem's hospital system" and would in no way harm the Hadassah hospitals in Ein Kerem and on Mt. Scopus, he said.

David Tagar, spokesman for Kupat Holim Clalit, which last month signed an agreement linking Shaare Zedek hospitals to the

Histadrut health fund's national hospital network, said that as far as he knows Clalit's agreement with Shaare Zedek took effect on April 1 and is in force without change. He had no further comments.

The Health Ministry and the Hadassah Medical Organization have both protested against linking Shaare Zedek to Kupat Holim Clalit.

Hadassah spokeswoman Margalit Toledano said yesterday that until definite Bikur Cholim-Shaare Zedek merger plans are announced, Hadassah cannot comment.

Neither the Health Ministry nor officials of Shaare Zedek and Bikur Cholim would comment on concern expressed by representatives of several hospital work committees, who say the merger will lead to the dismissal of at least 150 nursing, technical and service employees.

A Finance Ministry source said the ministry is also studying the matter at the Health Ministry's request.

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Bomb damages Israeli firm's New York offices

NEW YORK (Reuter). — A bomb explosion yesterday severely damaged the Manhattan offices of Israel Aircraft Industries International police said.

There were no reports of casualties, they added.

A man claiming to be a member of a group he called the Red Guerrilla Resistance telephoned a New York news organization minutes before the bomb exploded at the company's offices, the police said.

The caller said "Death to Zionism and imperialism" and warned that a bomb had been planted in a Manhattan office building without giving its specific location, police said.



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"Home and Garden"
Our special supplement
on Wednesday, April 11.

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BRUSSELS	4	3	9	46
CHICAGO	3	27	6	43
COPENHAGEN	5	41	8	48
FRANKFURT	1	39	3	37
GENEVA	2	26	13	54
HAMBURG	2	36	4	38
HONG KONG	24	78	25	77
JOHANNESBURG	12	54	17	63
LONDON	12	54	17	63
MADRID	10	50	17	63
MUNICH	1	30	14	27
NEW YORK	7	45	11	52
OSLO	0	32	5	37
PARIS	4	36	10	50
RIO DE JANEIRO	21	70	25	77
SAO PAULO	17	62	20	68
STOCKHOLM	2	36	4	38
TOKYO	12	54	17	63
TYBINGTO	5	41	8	48
ZURICH	1	34	8	46

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy and cooler.
Outlook for Sabbath: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	33	14-24	19
Golan	26	15-25	22
Nahariya	33	15-27	18
Haifa Port	25	15-28	21
Thessalon	30	13-20	25
Nazareth	30	13-28	23
Afula	34	12-30	34
Safed	38	14-27	21
Tel Aviv	47	14-24	21
B-G Airport	48	12-28	23
Jericho	28	14-32	27
Caes	73	13-22	20
Beer Sheva	18	11-30	24
Eilat	18	19-35	30

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday met with the governor of the state of Oregon, Victor Atiyeh.
The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Shipping and Mrs. Asbjorn Haugstvedt, accompanied by other members of the Norwegian delegation, arrived in Jerusalem on Wednesday evening given by the Honorary Consul-General of Norway in Israel and Mrs. Eliahu Izakson at their residence in Herzliya. Among the guests were the Knesset Speaker and Mrs. Menahem Savidor, cabinet members, Knesset members, diplomats and leading Israeli businessmen.
Nahman Perel was last night unanimously re-elected as chairman of El Al's Board of Directors.

DEPARTURES

Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, to Holland, for a four-day visit on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

Bar-Ilan University
Faculty of Exact Sciences
Chemistry Department
On the third anniversary of the death of
Prof. YEHOSHUA SCHECHTER ז"ל
former Head of the Chemistry Department
and Rector of the University
there will be a memorial service on Monday, April 9
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Memorial lecture: Dr. Shlomo Nahari — Chemicals in Israel
In memory of Prof. Schechter, and Mishnayot lesson:
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National President

Hadassah Wizo Organization of Canada
deeply mourns the passing of
RECHA FREIER ז"ל
Founder of Youth Aliyah, a woman of
vision and action.
Cecil Peters
National President

HOME NEWS

Eilon Moreh hilltop to be settled after all

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter
The World Zionist Organization yesterday completed moving some 30 buildings to a hill southeast of Nablus for a Jewish settlement, that will help complete the encirclement of the major Arab city.

The projected settlement, Tel Hayim, is situated near the site which had originally served Eilon Moreh, some five kilometres southeast of Nablus. The original Gush Emunim settlers were ordered off the area in 1979 by the High Court of Justice, which upheld Arab claims to the land. In the meantime, however, private Jewish entrepreneurs have reportedly bought land in the near vicinity.

A well-placed source told *The Jerusalem Post* he expected the sale of the lands where Eilon Moreh had actually been to be approved soon as well.

Tel Hayim will be the 13th settlement within a 10-kilometre radius of Nablus. Its first inhabitants are scheduled to move in before Independence Day.

The WZO source said it will thus leave only one area around Nablus not settled by Jews. There are no Jewish settlements northeast of the city except for Irit, which is more than 10 kilometres from Nablus.

The decision to settle at the old site of Eilon Moreh was taken by the Ministerial Settlement Committee some two months ago, the source added.

Negev moshavniks threaten to block roads over neglect

By MOTTI BEN-YANAI
Special to The Post

MOSHAV DEKEL. — Settlers at six Western Negev moshavim are threatening to block roads to Gaza District settlements and carry out other acts of protest against what they call their "abandonment" by the government "in favour of settlements in occupied areas."

Members of Talmei Yosef, Prigan, Dekel, Yated, Yevul, and Sede Avraham were to meet last night to plan an active campaign to save their settlements from failing.

Yoram Drucker, a member of Dekel and one of the organizers of the protest effort, said yesterday that the six moshavim have an average debt of some IS100 million, on which they pay an average

monthly interest of some IS20m. They are facing collapse, he said, while all government aid is being channelled to less productive settlements in Hevel Katif, in the Gaza District.

In addition to blocking roads to Katif "in the near future, if demands for aid are not met," Drucker said the moshavniks also plan to demonstrate at government offices and symbolically close the six moshavim.

Members of Talmei Yosef, Prigan and Dekel are particularly bitter at the alleged neglect by the government. These moshavim were settled by evacuees from Yamit after the town was bulldozed by the government during the evacuation from Sinai in 1982.

'Hapoalim has no claims against Ampal'

TEL AVIV. — The letter sent recently by Bank Hapoalim to its American subsidiary Ampal is only a re-iteration of previous statements that the bank has no claim against Ampal arising from asset transfers made several years ago. It in no way refers to charges made by the former chairman of the bank, the late Ya'acov Levinson.

This was the categorical reaction yesterday by both Bank Hapoalim and Hevrat Ha'ovdim secretary Danny Rosolio to newspaper reports that the letter in fact cleared Levinson of irregularities in dealings involving Ampal.

Rosolio went on to accuse "certain persons, including journalists," of "trying to stir up this sad affair," by publishing half-truths to create the impression of a plot against Levinson, an allegation that has already been found baseless by the Rothman-Sivan committee.

The Bank Hapoalim statement stressed that no damage had been caused to either itself or Ampal as a result of the transfers. The bank has clarified several times that no

evidence of improper behaviour on behalf of either corporation has been found, the statement noted.

Bank Hapoalim sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that the letter was part of a process of clarification of Ampal's solid base. Both Bank Hapoalim and Ampal appointed early this year special counsel to look into all aspects of the relationship between the two companies. This is normal procedure under Security and Exchange Commission rules for shares registered for trading in New York.

Border policemen hurt by grenade in Sidon

Jerusalem Post Reporter
METULLA. — A border policeman was lightly wounded yesterday when a grenade was thrown at a Border Police patrol in Sidon.

The attack came in Hahol Square, which has been the scene of dozens of similar attacks over the past few months.

Nisia Chilewich buried in Jerusalem

Funeral services were held yesterday in Jerusalem for Nisia Chilewich, who suffered a heart attack while on a visit to the Virgin Islands. She was 71.

Chilewich was a founder and former president of the American Friends of the Council for a Beautiful Israel, a former president of the Women's Division United Jewish Appeal, in New York, and actively associated with the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Mrs. Chilewich is survived by her husband Aron, her daughter Bina Diamond, son David Kindler, and four grandchildren.



President Chaim Herzog yesterday toured Ashdod, where he met Mike Alistair, a fellow native of Belfast, captain of a ship that happened to be in port. (IPPA)

Iraqi foreign minister tells paper Iraq gets U.S. assurances Israel won't attack pipeline'

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz says his country has received assurances from the U.S. that Israel will not bomb a proposed major new pipeline to carry Iraqi oil through Jordan to the Gulf of Akaba.

In an interview yesterday in *The Wall Street Journal*, Aziz also welcomed the recently improved Iraqi relationship with the U.S. and praised U.S. efforts to curtail foreign arms shipments to Iran.

He again denied reports Iraq was using chemical and gas warfare in the fighting against Iran. But he added: "It is the right of Iraq to use all the means to defend itself...we are in a defensive posture against Iranian invaders."

Asked whether Iraq makes chemical weapons, he replied: "I have no information on such an in-

dustry in Iraq."

Late last week, *The New York Times* quoted a senior U.S. official as saying that the U.S. and Israel had discussed the possibility of an Israeli aerial strike against an underground Iraqi factory reportedly making the banned weapons. At the same time, the U.S. confirmed Iraq's use of the deadly gas.

State Department officials yesterday said they had not given Iraq any formal assurances regarding an Israeli attack against the new pipeline, although they conceded that they have explained why any such strike was unlikely. For one thing, they said, Israel had avoided attacking economic targets, even during wars.

In the interview, Aziz said the U.S. had asked Britain, Switzerland, the German Federal Republic, the Netherlands, South Korea and Israel to halt arms sales to Iran.

Temple Mount suspects to psychiatrist

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday ordered that the two suspects in the attempt on the Temple Mount be examined by a psychiatrist. The court will hear the prosecution request to detain Uzi Mahsia Alon, 46, and Yehuda Limai, 31, until the end of their trial after receiving the district psychiatrist's report.

The two men will remain in detention until then, with their agreement.

The Jerusalem deputy district attorney Moshe Lador yesterday gave Judge Shalom Brenner the report of the prison doctor that the pair do not need medical care.

The suspects' lawyer, Ya'acov Rubin, asked the court to postpone the hearing until he studies all the evidence against them. Rubin was appointed to defend the suspects on

Wednesday when it came to the court's attention that they had no lawyer. Rubin also told the court the prison doctor was not qualified to express an opinion on the men's mental state.

To support this argument, he asked permission to present for Brenner's eyes only letters they had written to the court. The letters, said Rubin, will prove the two men need psychiatric care. But Lador objected, saying that classified information could not be presented to the court at this stage. Rubin replied: "It is important that the material not be available to the prosecution, because it may contain something like a confession and I don't want the prosecution to be able to use it."

Brenner decided on the psychiatric examination without reading the letters. (Itim)

Acre pirate cable TV stations raided

The Acre Magistrates Court yesterday rejected a request by two owners of pirate cable-television stations in the Acre area to order the Communications Ministry to stop confiscating their equipment and disconnecting their clients from the station.

Teams made up of representatives of the ministry, technicians

of the Bezek communications company, the Police and Border Police raided three pirate cable-TV stations in the Acre area earlier this week and disconnected 600 clients, the Communications Ministry announced.

The communiqué added that the raids would continue in other parts of the country.

ELECTION BRIEFS

Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

Yitzhaki to try again
Yitzhak Yitzhaki, who was a member of the Ninth Knesset but failed to get a seat in the Tenth, decided yesterday to try to get into the Eleventh. The secretariat of his movement, Yisrael Ahat (One Israel), decided he would run at the head of his independent list.

'Together' with Ezer
Ezer Weizman's new political party is called Yehad (Together), the Mabot television programme reported last night.

Call for unity
Orthodox academics and intellectuals yesterday called on representatives of religious, national Jews to unite for the coming elections. Among the signatories to the appeal are: Professors Ya'acov Rand, Ernest Kraus and Shlomo Grossman of Bar-Ilan University. A similar appeal was launched yesterday by Orthodox heads of local and regional councils, including those identified with Gush Emunim.

Electioneering ban
The legal adviser of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Arye Brick, said yesterday that the law forbids electioneering on school premises.

Mapam and Naron
At Mapam's Central Committee meeting, Yitzhak Zucker asked the committee to put itself on record as favouring Yitzhak Naron for the number one place on the Alignment list. However, Mapam secretary general Victor Shemtov cautioned against divisive moves.

Zionist Panthers
The Ancha (Zionist Panthers) party is to run for the Knesset, party head Victor Tayar announced. Tayar has run four times unsuccessfully for the Knesset, but said he was trying again "on principle."

Parents Against Silence
The Parents Against Silence movement has appealed to the central committees of every political party to give top priority in their platforms to the issue of IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

New religious formation
Matzad, the religious party led by MK Haim Druckman, and Orat, a splinter of the National Religious Party, led by Hanan Porat, said yesterday at their initiative with the secretariat of Poalei Agudat Yisrael. A joint team has been established to prepare an election platform and list of candidates which, if approved by all three elements, will lead to the establishment of a new religious bloc.

U.S. denies Jlem consulate 'inimical'

WASHINGTON (JTA). — The State Department yesterday denied that its consulate in Jerusalem has been behaving improperly toward Israel.

"Any charges about improper behaviour or intentions on behalf of or on the part of the consul-general or any of the personnel in the consulate-general are totally misplaced and, indeed, irresponsible," State Department deputy

spokesman Alan Romberg said. Romberg was replying to a question about an article in *The Jerusalem Post* last Sunday by David Clayman, director of the Israel Office of the American Jewish Congress, and Perez Levine, a research intern, which stated that "the consulate which has offices both East and West Jerusalem, conducts its affairs in a way that are inimical to Israeli and American interests."

Partial compensation on loans planned

Post Economic Reporter
The Finance Ministry has decided to grant partial compensation to holders of 1971 Defence Loan certificates who choose not to redeem them now, but to wait an additional three to six years.

The ministry announced yesterday that Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orag will present a proposal at Sunday's cabinet meeting whereby holders of certificates that mature between April

and September willing to wait for three years will get full linkage from April and a four per cent rate of interest on their certificates. This would mean the holders would lose the linkage for the first three months of the year, because the maturing sums are pegged to December's price index.

Owners of certificates maturing between October 1984 and March 1985 will be offered the same terms on condition that they hold them for another six years.

Football groups sign agreement on player wages

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Representatives of the Hapoel, Maccabi and Beter football organizations have signed an agreement that next season they will cooperate in setting the wages of players, and will do so in shekels linked to the cost-of-living. This will replace the present system in which players get net dollar payments.

The agreement is still only provisional, as it has to be endorsed by all the clubs and the Israel Football Association, and the players may have something to say about the scheme.

Settlement at Timna

EILAT (Itim). — An agreement signed here last night reducing the number of workers fired by the Timna copper mine and enabling the mine to remain open.

Of Timna's 300 workers, 180 are to be dismissed, with most of them receiving between 140 and 190 per cent compensation. The settlement was signed in the presence of Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel, Eilat Labour Council chairman Meir Blum, Mayor Rafi Hochman and representatives of company management and workers.

LAUREATES. — Three Nobel Prize laureates in chemistry, Manfred Eigen, William Lipscomb and H.C. Brown, are expected to attend next week's 50th anniversary meeting of the Israel Chemical Society at the Hebrew University.

In great pain, we mourn the death of our dear and devoted colleague
YECHIEL NICK
and extend our sincerest condolences to his wife and sons
ORT ISRAEL WORLD ORT UNION

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved
HENRIK Y. MARGULIES ז"ל
we will hold a memorial and tombstone unveiling service on Sunday, April 8, 1984.
We will meet at 3 p.m. at the entrance to the cemetery at Kiryat Shaul, Tel Aviv.
Our thanks to all who expressed their condolences.
Sabine Margulies and family

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our dear
HELEN MACK (Olstein) ז"ל
we will hold a memorial service and tombstone unveiling on Tuesday, April 10, 1984 at 3.00 p.m. at Herzliya Cemetery.
We will meet at the cemetery entrance.
The Family

To Aron Chilewich
Deepest sympathy on the death of your wife
NIUSIA ז"ל
Mr. and Mrs. Avraham Blass

To Aron Chilewich
Member of our Board of Directors
Deepest sympathy on the death of your wife
NIUSIA ז"ל
The Sunfrost Executive

Moscow calls it 'propaganda ploy'

Reagan urges chemical arms ban

WASHINGTON. — President Ronald Reagan is urging the Soviet Union to agree to a total ban on the production, possession and use of chemical and toxic weapons.

Reagan said Wednesday night that Vice-President George Bush will go to Geneva in about two weeks to offer a draft treaty to the 40-nation disarmament meeting.

He said a new treaty on chemical weapons was needed because their use in Afghanistan, southeast Asia and the Gulf War between Iraq and Iran had demonstrated the short-

comings of existing pacts. In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass yesterday dismissed Reagan's call for a total ban on chemical weapons as a "propaganda ploy," saying it was deliberately hedged with unacceptable conditions.

Reagan was speaking at a news conference at which he also said he still believed King Hussein would join the Middle East peace process and described major Soviet naval movements in the North Atlantic as routine spring exercises.

He also said Congress had en-

couraged terrorism in Lebanon with its public debate of calls for the withdrawal of U.S. peacekeeping forces.

The president gave no details of the verification procedures he intended proposing, but reports from Washington said it appeared these would involve on-site monitoring of chemical facilities.

Difficulties in accurate monitoring of the other side's potential have dogged most major East-West attempts to reach agreement on nuclear or chemical weapons and on arms spending.

Huge Soviet naval games near end

OSLO (AP). — The Soviet armada participating in a huge naval exercise in the North Atlantic appeared heading for home yesterday, NATO monitors said.

By mid-afternoon, the fleet's vanguard had steamed past Norway's easternmost borders on an apparent course for its home bases on the Kola Peninsula, said a spokesman for the North Norway defence command.

Headed by the nuclear-powered cruiser Kirov, more than 200 Soviet vessels including as many as 30 major surface ships poured into the Norwegian Sea during a 36-hour period last weekend, NATO sources said.

Meanwhile six U.S. Navy ships participating in a Baltic show-the-flag exercise were reported yesterday making port calls in the neutral waters of Helsinki and Stockholm. Some have already been in port in Copenhagen.

Two killed in New York as 2 buildings cave in

NEW YORK (Reuters). — Two construction workers were killed and 21 persons injured when two empty New York buildings caved in during renovation work Wednesday, police said.

Debris spilled over the pavement, hitting passersby, including four children. Four construction workers were rescued from the ruins in the Lower East Side by police and firemen.

Special powers for India to fight terror in Punjab

AMRITSAR (AP). — The Indian government, reacting to mounting Sikh terrorism, yesterday armed itself with special powers to detain without trial any person in troubled Punjab regarded as a threat to security or public order.

An ordinance proclaimed by President Zail Singh gave the government the power to detain anyone for up to six months without formal trial to prevent him from acting against the nation's defence and security, or Punjab's security.

It also prevented anyone from interfering in the maintenance of public order, or supplies or essential services.

The special powers were announced by Home Minister P.C. Sethi in parliament.

The ordinance, effective yesterday, was applicable to Punjab and Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab

and neighbouring Haryana state. Punjab is plagued by escalating Sikh terrorism attacks and at least 125 persons were killed in the last two months.

They were no reports of arrests under the new ordinance in the first few hours after it was proclaimed.

Several opposition lawmakers criticized the ordinance as "anti-people," "draconian" and "a black law."

An ordinance does not need parliament's approval and is effective immediately after it is proclaimed.

Unidentified terrorists shot and seriously wounded a scooter rickshaw driver in a new wave of violence, and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was urged to postpone a planned visit this weekend to four Arab states because of continuing Sikh terrorism.

U.S., Soviets in private talks on consulates

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. and the Soviet Union are engaged in private talks focusing on resuming cultural and scientific exchanges and opening new consulates in Kiev and New York, State Department officials said Wednesday.

The talks, which were described as "ongoing," involve contacts with Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko through the ambassadors of both countries.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin met with Shultz here on Monday. U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman met Gromyko in Moscow on Tuesday.

The exchange programme and the establishment of new consulates are the two areas that seem to give hope for relatively speedy progress and are at least worth exploring, said one official who commented on condition he not be identified.

The previous cultural, scientific and educational exchange agreement expired in 1980.

President Jimmy Carter suspended both the exchange programme and talks on setting up new consulates as a part of his package of sanctions spurred by Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1980.

Discussions were about to begin anew last year when President Ronald Reagan suspended the talks to protest the shooting down of a South Korean airliner by a Soviet warplane on September 1.

Egyptian opposition party wants to halt normalization

CAIRO (AP). — The head of one of Egypt's five opposition parties called yesterday for a gradual halt to the process of normalizing relations with, and an end to sales of Egyptian oil to Israel.

Khaled Mohieddin, leader of the leftist National Progressive Rally, told a news conference that his party disagreed with the 1978 Camp David Accords and called for a "practical way" to neutralize the agreement "to reduce the dangers against our country."

"Our party has taken a position against the Camp David Accords, but when we come to carry out this position, we have to take a practical way," said Mohieddin, the only member of the military clique that

overthrew King Farouk 31 years ago who remains in active politics. "We call for the abolition of the Camp David method by practical steps, and reducing normalization measures until they reach a standstill," he added. "We can start by stopping the export of oil to Israel. We can shut down the Israeli research centres here and stop the hoards of Israeli tourists."

Mohieddin's party, which has only one seat in the 392-member parliament, and three other opposition groups have criticized the treaty but have stopped short of calling for its abolition.

Only one opposition party, the tiny Umma Party, has called for the cancellation of the treaty.

Two colonels head new Guinean gov't

ABIDJAN (Reuters). — Guinea's new military leadership has named Colonel Lansana Conté as president and Col. Diarra Traore as Prime Minister, Conakry Radio reported yesterday.

The radio, monitored in Abidjan, said the military, who seized power in a bloodless coup on Tuesday, had also appointed a 30-strong government which includes only eight civilian members.

Conté and Traore already headed the military Redemption Committee formed after the coup that ousted the 26-year-old regime set up by President Sekou Toure, who died last week.

FENCE. — India will spend 2 billion rupees (\$200 million) to erect a barbed-wire fence along its 2,700-kilometre border with Bangladesh

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Bonn renews appeal for Hess's release

BONN (AP). — German Federal Republic Chancellor Helmut Kohl has appealed to the four powers for release of imprisoned Nazi deputy Fuehrer Rudolf Hess, who marks his 90th birthday April 26, a well-informed Bonn source said yesterday.

The source, who declined to be

named, said Kohl sent letters March 14 to Washington, Paris, London and Moscow urging Hess's release on humanitarian grounds.

Several governments replied, the source said, but he declined to discuss the responses or say whether Moscow was among them.

U.S. vetoes Nicaragua UN resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — The U.S. used its veto power in the UN Security Council Wednesday night to kill a Nicaraguan resolution that would have condemned the mining of that Central American country's main ports.

U.S. delegate Jose Sorzano, who cast the sole dissenting vote, told the council the resolution was "seriously flawed," unfair and not in the interest of peace in Central America.

The resolution, which referred to

the U.S. "strategy of terror" aimed at toppling the Sandinista government, was supported by 13 of the council's 15 members — four more than the minimum required for adoption, barring a veto. Britain abstained.

DICTIONARY. — A new up-to-date Russian-Yiddish dictionary, including electronic and cosmopolitan terms, has been issued in Moscow in an edition of 20,000 copies. The news agency said yesterday.

Sports

SOCCER PREVIEW
Unprecedented triple-header

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Correspondent

An unprecedented morning to evening football festival will take place at Jaffa's Bloomfield Stadium tomorrow, when three National League games will be played. The biggest attraction of all will be the clash between last season's champions, Maccabi Netanya, and the current league leaders Bnei Yehuda.

The game is being played at Bloomfield as Maccabi Netanya have to play this game outside of Netanya as a result of a Football Association Disciplinary Committee ruling obliging the club to play its home games away because of the unruliness of fans last month. It was a shrewd decision on the part of Netanya to select Bloomfield as a place of punishment.

Both teams scored fine wins last Saturday, Netanya beating Hapoel Tel Aviv 3:1 at Bloomfield, while Bnei Yehuda scored their first league win in

eight outings. Can Eli Ohana and Uri Malmilian find a way past Aris Alter in the Netanya goal or will be the turn of Oded Machness, Benny Lamm and Co. to beat Yossi Mizrahi? An open, hard-fought match can be anticipated, with a lot of prestige at stake. A sell-out crowd can be expected, many spectators from Jerusalem and Netanya.

In the supporting programme, Maccabi Tel Aviv meet Maccabi Patah Tikva, a much improved combination. The Tel Avivians may still be without Benny Tishbi and Vicky Peres, which will considerably weaken their attack. It is difficult to see a result between the talented Eyal Ben-Zur for the visitors and Meir Ziv.

Other National League games: Hapoel Lod v Hapoel Tel Aviv; Hapoel Be'er Sheva v Maccabi Jaffa; Bnei Yehuda v Hapoel Yehud; Hakoah v Ramat Gan.

Perkis reaches the semis

By JACK LEON
Post Sports Reporter

ASHKELON. — Unseeded Shahar Perkis yesterday obtained an impressive 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 quarter-final victory over third-seeded Drew Gitlin (U.S.) to keep local hopes alive at the Israel Tennis Association's \$25,000 ATP "Gall Cup" tournament here. The lanky Haifaite now takes on British Davis Cup racket Jonathan Smith, who upset title-holder Shlomo Glickstein in the second round on Wednesday evening.

The in-form Smith — who had lost all his three previous matches against Glickstein — marched on with a 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Finnish champion Leo Paim in a hard-fought contest between the two unseeded players. Fighting out today's other semi-final will be No. 2 seed Michiel Schapers, of Holland, and No. 4 Bruce Manson (U.S.). Schapers was yesterday stretched to

5-7, 6-3, 6-3 by American Jeff Turpin, while Manson came through 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 against South Africa's Henri de Wet.

Perkis is in sparkling form against Gitlin, whose current ATP world ranking of 152 is nearly 100 places higher than that of the Israeli, and who, during the past two years, reached the third rounds at both Wimbledon and the French Open. Perkis played with great authority throughout the two-hour match, with his stylish game highlighted by powerful serving, returns of service, and the sweetest of backhand passing shots.

Perkis and Glickstein last night won their doubles quarter-final match, beating Yair Wertheimer and Eilon Sinai 6-4, 6-4.

The 12-nation tournament concludes this weekend at Ashkelon's handsome Israel Tennis Centre, with play starting at 1 p.m. today and 2 p.m. tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY Play off Wednesday: New York Islanders 4, New York Rangers 1; Washington Capitals 3, Philadelphia Flyers 2; Quebec Nordiques 3, Buffalo Sabres 2; Minnesota North Stars 2, Boston Bruins 1; Chicago Black Hawks 3, Minnesota 1; St. Louis Blues 3, Detroit Red Wings 2; Calgary Flames 3, Vancouver Canucks 3; Edmonton Oilers 9, Winnipeg Jets 2.

NBA Thursday: New Jersey 112, Indiana 101; Atlanta Hawks 99, Washington Bullets 91; Kansas City Kings 121, San Diego Clippers 114.

TENNIS: Chris Evert, Lloyd, unseeded Andrei Janger 6-1, 6-1 in 40 minutes in the \$125,000 Costa Blanca Invitational Tennis tournament.

Baseball: Several games are expected for the day-long tournament, seven of them non-league sides. St. Louis, a leading member of both the World's and national league teams, fell in the Yogi Berra War.

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Focus

מכאן לאחור

WITH DEFENCE MINISTER Moshe Arens, it is always difficult to tell whether he is at the start or the end of a work day. We met him in his Tel Aviv office at five o'clock one afternoon this week. His desk was meticulously tidy, his manner cordial — even warm — and he seemed unpressed for time, though the diary on his desk proved otherwise.

This was the first interview Arens has given since the recent "disaster" in *The New York Times*, which had quoted Arens as claiming — among other things — that his American counterpart, Casper Weinberger, was in need of psychiatric help — something the defence minister vociferously denies.

"The reporter and her husband were pressing me about Weinberger and his Jewishness," said Arens. "They asked me if I thought that this had anything to do with his attitude, and all I said was I could not give the answer, and perhaps they should address the question to a psychologist."

THE QUOTATION IN *The New York Times* is not characteristic of Arens. His words are carefully chosen, and he never lets down his guard. There is a sincerity about him that gives credence to his statements.

In the year he has been in office, Arens has not had an easy time. He inherited a messy situation in Lebanon: a defence budget that had been drastically cut; tension in Judea, Samaria and Gaza; a general staff that had been decimated by the findings of the Kahane Commission; and an army that was having trouble keeping key personnel in uniform.

Many of those problems remain unresolved. The army is still in Lebanon; money is still tight; there is no quiet in Judea, Samaria or Gaza; terror is on the increase; and the peace with Egypt seems to be getting colder.

Add to this that Arens has had to fight a battle not only against outside critics of the government's defence policy, but against some of his colleagues around the cabinet table as well, and one can assume that the past year has not been an easy one.

For a year you have been saying that you want the army out of Lebanon, yet we are still there. How much longer will we be living with Lebanon?

Arens: We've been living with Lebanon since 1948.

We have seen the appointment of a new commander for the South Lebanese army, and we have heard about plans to build up this army to a point where the IDF will be able to withdraw from most of the western sector of Southern Lebanon in three to four months. Is this something we could look forward to, or is it more wishful thinking?

I think it is not impossible. And it is certainly a goal that we would like to achieve. But we have already learned that in Lebanon it is very difficult to make any kind of accurate predictions and though things in Southern Lebanon may be just a little more secure than things are in the areas in which we're not deployed, I wouldn't want to say anything with undue confidence.

You don't think that the internal atmosphere in Israel, elections and so on could prejudice that goal?

I don't think so, and I don't want to believe it, because Lebanon is so important to us, and because it involves the lives of people, the lives of soldiers, and the security of Israel. I certainly cannot think in terms of making some move that is directed at some electoral fall-out, even though it may not be the best move in terms of our primary interest: the security of our people.

As long as I'm here, we will do whatever is necessary regardless of elections, even though this might sound self-serving and some people may smile cynically.

Will the absence of a move, also be making a move?

Absolutely. It's a difficult situation, I think in some ways an unusual situation, for Israel in the sense that operational questions and decisions have become a subject of public debate, and in some cases furious debate, which does not make decision-making any easier. Debate may be a demonstration of how Israel operates as a free country, even at a time when we are subjected to military stress. But as part of this debate, some people have tried to create the impression that the government can't make up its mind and I guess the government looks even worse if it can't make up its mind, if it is seen as just sitting there and not taking any decisions.

But, as you quite rightly pointed out, a decision not to redeploy today is a decision not to redeploy today and is not a result of the fact that we just cannot make up our minds. We have decided that today — April 2 — we are not redeploying, that we are staying right where we are. And that is as active a decision as would be a decision to redeploy on April 2.

Is that a change in the situation that existed, say, a month or six weeks ago?

Not really, because our basic strategy is that we want to get out, but we don't want to make any moves where our redeployment will carry risks for the civilian population in the north of the country. The question of redeployment is not just a question of geography. It's also a question of timing.

We have made an investment in the South Lebanese Army, and the new commander has come highly recommended: he had a top position in the Lebanese Army. We feel that this will certainly advance us in the right direction, so that we can cut down the number of IDF forces in the area, since we will have a military group that can take over some of the functions that we are presently performing.

Perhaps your decision not to withdraw right now could be linked to the fact that the government does not want to face an election campaign and the possibility of the Galilee being attacked during that campaign?

Well, as I just said, I simply will not admit to myself that I am ready to consider electoral considerations and I won't do it. If for the moment you want to speculate what is good in terms of the electorate, a pull-back, could be very good. But it is not at all clear and I say the electorate "shouldn't" be considered at all. Lebanon is just too important as an issue.

What other factors will decide when the IDF can be withdrawn?

Of course there are other factors. There are many things happening that you have to take into consideration. You don't want to get into the position where you make a move and then, a week later, you say: "what a mistake I've made."

If, however, I was convinced that there was a good chance of saving the life of one Israeli soldier by making the move tomorrow, I'd make the move tomorrow.

Given the escalation of terror from inside Syrian-held territory and our policy of retaliation, aren't you fearful of escalation with the Syrians?

It's possible. We really have no viable alternate strategy. We are not going to fight a war of attrition, and we're not going to be subjected to terrorism that is working under the protection of the Syrian umbrella. And that's the responsibility that the Syrians are going to have to take on themselves to prevent that. They did prevent it for many months, and when some months ago, they did not, we fired against PLO bases in Syrian-controlled territory. That will continue to be our policy, and it's very important for the Syrians to understand that we are not going to sit there and take terrorist attacks against our soldiers.

It's very important for the Syrians to realize that there is no in-between.

And you feel stability can only be achieved by a policy of deterrence, rather than negotiation?

We know that they [the Syrians] have the ability to make it quiet. If they don't want terrorist activity coming from areas in their control, there will be no terrorist activity from their area. If we could make sure that there will be no such activity by talking to them, that's a much better way of doing it. But we have had no indication at all that they are interested in talking to us. In fact, we have a number of indications that they are not interested in talking to us.

In other words, we've tried to speak to the Syrians?

I would say from our point of view we feel that contact with the Syrians could be useful. Though the Syrians insist that they are an enemy of Israel, this doesn't mean that all our interests are diametrically opposed. I'm sure, for example, that neither side would like uncontrolled escalation. Well, how do you prevent uncontrolled escalation? By sitting down and talking, either directly or through some mediator. But so far, all the signals are that they don't want to talk to us.

Are we prepared to negotiate a separation of forces with the Syrians, to be policed by the U.N.?

In principle yes. They don't want escalation and we certainly don't want uncontrolled escalation. Right now we're sitting very close to the Syrians, so we certainly think it would be advantageous to have a separation of forces and get the

Portfolio of battles

Defence Minister Arens is interviewed by Hirsh Goodman



(Dan Ladani/PPA)

U.N. between us — similar to the situation we have on the Golan, which has been a pretty safe situation.

But this is a de facto admission that the Syrians are in Lebanon to stay.

First of all, it's not for us to admit; but we can't argue with the facts — you've got the Syrian army in Lebanon and you've got the IDF in Lebanon. We feel it would be better for all sides to have a separation agreement and have some U.N. forces between us. But, as I said, we have all indications that the Syrians do not want to talk to us in any manner or form. I don't think that they're looking to Israel for legitimacy for their presence in Lebanon and they don't see themselves in a position of symmetry with Israel. The IDF has to get out, and their leaving Lebanon has nothing to do with the IDF getting out of Lebanon.

You don't think that Syrian intransigence and their unwillingness to speak to us is in fact a function of internal weakness in Israel? They read the Israeli papers and they hear the debate within the government, as well as the criticism of you by your colleagues.

That certainly plays a role. The Syrians read Israeli newspapers, listen to Israel Radio and watch Israeli television. Syrian intelligence does it, I'm sure, and there is no doubt in my mind that they think that there is a good probability that the Israeli army is going to leave Lebanon without any separation of forces with the Syrian army, and it's quite possible that may be the reason why they feel there is no point in having contact with us. Why should they in any way compromise their position when they can achieve their end anyway, without, say, giving legitimacy to the Israeli presence in Lebanon? That debate here has weakened our position. I am 100 per cent convinced of that, but I'm hesitant about saying that because of charges that I'm not for a free press or for a free government. The task of the opposition is to oppose the government and to show that the government is making a mistake here and there. But, on the other hand, there is such a thing as bi-partisan politics in many democracies in times of stress when there's been a muting of public debate on defence issues. That has certainly been the case in Israel in the past. We have been through more difficult times, like the war of attrition, where we took much heavier losses, but we did not have this kind of wild debate going on, and the Egyptians could not count on the fact that a couple more artillery shells over a couple more weeks, and the Israelis would be gone.

The debate here makes it more difficult, and it is unfortunate, because maybe we could come to an arrangement on a separation of forces if the Syrians were convinced that we were not going to move out. So I'm trying to do everything possible to change that view. It is most dangerous, really most dangerous, if it should turn out that in Damascus they think that the kind of unity Israel has displayed in the past in times of stress or under attack no longer exists, and that this big army, which only becomes big when you mobilize the reserves, is not going to be big any more, and the next time around you are going to have people who are not going to want to fight on the southern front or the northern front beyond this line or beyond that line. There is no question in my mind, however, that if we have a national emergency we will have the kind of unity that we have always had, but I am concerned that they [the Syrians] have miscalculated.

I appreciate the fact that many of the people who are out there demonstrating — the women against

silence and the people who care and the yesh g'vul people — have the best motives and the best intentions. I don't doubt that. But I must admit that this is damaging. But this is the price we pay for democracy.

Assume that I believe moving the IDF out of Lebanon today, behind the international border at Rosh Hanikra, would restore the national consensus. Let's say we did that, and the following day rockets started to fall on the Galilee. Then would everybody say that we are all ready to stand up and fight this new battle together?

If we put political considerations aside for a moment, is it not possible to find a solution? Shimon Peres had what seemed to me to be a plan that did take Israel's security interests in the north into account. There is no more terrorist infrastructure there, and if you do have 2,500 people in the South Lebanese Army, who are well-armed and who have 400 Israeli advisers, with their ear to the ground, with overflights and with an efficient intelligence network, wouldn't that be adequate? After all, even now with the IDF in South Lebanon, you can't say there will be no Katyushas in the Galilee.

True, we just had Katyushas landing not far from Misgav Am and two months ago they fell near Metulla, and many people are saying: "Here is the proof that even with the IDF's presence in Lebanon, even with the cost we are paying, we still have Katyushas in the Galilee."

But I think that the conclusion is just the opposite. What the Katyushas show is that the (terrorists') motivation is there. We know this from our intelligence sources as well. They want to prove now that nothing has been accomplished, and that life in the Galilee can be made unbearable again. For us now the motivation is to keep that capability very limited.

For almost two years now, not a single person has been hurt in the Galilee, but the temptation is there. Once we move out of the area it will again put the Galilee in range.

This does not imply that we are going to stay there forever. We are not going to stay there forever; we're going to find the means of getting the protection we need before we pull out, and trying to find this (protection) under constant pressure, do it today, or do it tomorrow, doesn't make it easier.

Do you feel pressure?

You mean do I personally feel pressured? In a sense — when I read the papers. I don't doubt the intentions of the (writers) involved but I feel that I have a responsibility.

Many people feel that we are not moving out of Lebanon because the government does not want to admit that it made a mistake. There are people saying that we do not have the courage to make the right decisions. From my point of view, there is nothing easier than to climb onto the jeeps and personnel carriers and get the hell out — that's really the easiest position of all. But, I just don't feel that it would be a responsible thing for me to do it that way.

Do you think in retrospect that the war was a mistake?

If you look back at every war that Israel has, unfortunately, been involved in, I am sure that you can find mistakes. There is no such thing as a war that was fought without mistakes.

In many ways, a war is a statistical game. You can be right 75 per cent of the time or 57 per cent of the time and you think you have won the war. If you look at Ben-Gurion's book on the War of Independence, Dayan's book about the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the War of Attrition, you find many mis-

takes. I would not be as presumptuous as to tell you that everything in this war was done letter-perfect. I don't think that no mistakes were made. I think, basically, that what was behind the war is something that many people in Israel have forgotten: The first mortar shells fell on the Galilee in September of 1968 and that is when it started. And we have the series of place names that are scars in the hearts of every Israeli: Ma'alot, Kiryat Shmona, Misgav Am.

We tried all kinds of strategies over the past 16 years. Deep-penetration raids, artillery bombardments, air bombardments. Many people have forgotten this already. Bombings of Beirut, commando raids into Lebanon, and so on. It didn't work.

So it isn't like we had much better strategies in the past? I don't think we're in a position where you can look back and say everything, the whole thing, is all wrong, totally misconceived. I don't think that this is correct.

It's an ongoing struggle. It's difficult for us to admit it, but we have to admit it. We are going to have to keep living with this kind of danger and paying the heavy price that goes with it. I think we would be fooling ourselves if we think that there is some strategy out there that can put an end to it, once and for all.

I know that 95 per cent of Israelis would be prepared to pay any price to find that strategy. It's not there. Wishful thinking is one thing, and reality another.

What about a pre-emptive strike against Syria?

We have been talking about the short-term problems in Lebanon. They are really very important and overriding because of the pain accompanying losses over there. In the long-term, we are seeking to deter the Arab countries, first and foremost Syria, from going to war against us. That is our biggest challenge. Has always been by the way. People have frequently said we have failed because we have had wars. That's not entirely true because if you look at a country like Syria, and a man like Assad who runs it, I'd say that every day that goes by and there is no war with Syria, is a victory.

We're investing a great deal of brains and resources to come up with the kind of weaponry and tactics that would be a deterrent. I think that we are on the way to doing that. We have a very fine defence industry, employing a very large number of people with a combination of technological know-how and operational experience. This does give us the capability and Israel is just reaching the point of maturity in this area. We went through a period when people said that it was crazy for a small country like Israel to try and make a missile. People said it was just nuts to make a sea-to-sea missile, the Gabriel. Israel advanced to a point where we were a little behind the Americans, and maybe a little ahead of the Russians. In certain areas we have weapon systems that are breakthroughs, and that do not exist, and will not exist exist, on the other side of the border. I think, given all that, that we can create a situation where the Syrians, and whoever else might think of going to war against us, will say: "That's impossible because these guys have systems and tactics that we're just not going to be able to handle."

Do you say this despite the fact that a few months ago, during the battle over the budget, the defence establishment was saying that we're going to have to curtail research and development, freeze systems going into development, cut the size of the army, fire people from the army, and so forth?

Well this was why that debate was very difficult for us. Here and there you heard people talking about the fact that the defence force was such a large establishment that it must be easy to cut back. But it was very difficult. By the way, I stood behind that effort because I thought that the economic circumstances of the country were such that we had to have a cut in public expenditure, and I realized that you really couldn't have it without having a serious cutback in the defence budget as well.

Did the \$250m. that we got from the United States for the Lavi save that project?

Well, it certainly made it a great deal easier. I was the happiest man in the world when approval for that was given. The Lavi is more than a fighter-project. American companies will be deeply involved, and the programme can also be seen as a basis for mutual cooperation.

What has happened to strategic cooperation with the United States? You were so optimistic in November, and now this seems to have disappeared from the headlines.

We're not trying to put a lid on it and we're not trying to put it into the headlines. President Reagan said in a recent speech that since the foundation of the State, American-Israeli relationships have never been as close as they are today. There has never been such close strategic cooperation. I don't know whether it is going to last forever, but I think that today American-Israeli relations are closer than they have ever been before.

Has anything tangible happened here? Are we getting joint exercises — or prepositioning?

I don't think I want to talk about any of this in detail for reasons that you understand. It starts with the fact that both countries had a similar view of the situation and have common interests. In the past there was total dissimilarity between the U.S. and Israeli views on the Middle East. I've always said we had common interests and we did have common interests. We've pursued these interests and I think there's been a great bridge built in the last six months.

What about army morale in Lebanon?

I think it's very difficult to come up with a one-dimensional summation. The army is not out there doing training exercises, but it is there patrolling. The job it has to do in Lebanon is not a very pleasant job. Plenty of people are very unhappy about it. It's unpleasant and it's dangerous. Reserve duty is around 60 days a year and for some this is really tough.

Which leads me to the next question. The chief of staff, on a number of occasions, has been talking about the difficulty of keeping young officers in the army. What do you think of this phenomenon?

THE DEFENCE Minister said the army was having no problem finding suitable candidates for elite units — "where there are many more candidates than positions that have to be filled." Recently it had been noticed, he noted, that in these units there was a lower percentage of kibbutzniks than in the past, but a higher percentage of young people from development towns — "a fact that is a credit to Israel, because it shows what has been done here socially." There was no problem finding fighter pilots for the air force, he said, but recalled the days when Ezer Weizman, then com-

mander of the air force, was the first on the list of the defence minister's candidates for something he was doing away from the salary.

"This is not a problem," he said, "in developing, the army is developing, there are and in the future, looking for good people to become more and more used to be, making the army to contain the best people — and interested in the army."

He became a problem for the people for the army — one — it was a maintenance. Years ago, we had with the problem, have taken several steps to change the army, who decide to resign, redesigning a few officers of the army. Basically it's a matter of money — not a problem.

In the year you have met with Samaria and Gaza, what is your opinion?

In terms of residence in the sense that it is a situation where everyone is happy, where everyone is happy, where everyone is never very optimistic, and I am not. In fact, we have had Arab notables who have had some educational institutions — there is not going to be a solution in the future, and we are going to tell them, it is not a situation. There is an effort to live with the standard of living, the quality of life, and each other in order to be able to live with the foundation of the nation. Without that, earlier, we had a political solution.

But a political solution you will not have, you prepared to prepare Samaria and Gaza?

Most of the people in the territories that I have met with me, that we are together. I am not sure that everybody is happy. But I think that those who are in the territories, in business, in feeling that we have to feel together. The reality is a long way off.

But did you give them hope of a political solution?

I don't know if I can hope. All I know is that is realistic.

But there is a need to tell people to build up a better future, that is a political solution, and not giving up on a compromise in a war.

Look, I feel that the ideal situation is together, where we have friendly relations, a common language, where there is a fact that today that the Arabs — then, I think, are going to look at us, they do today.

We are on the campaign, we are on the Likud on the line.

I am.

Not Shimon.

Well, I'm not. Maybe he is a minister.

Do you believe that representation in the changed?

I do not want to say, but I feel that for a better future, and more development, between Israel and the foundation of the state.

ARENS: A recent interview by a foreign newspaper, the opinion that the political system in Israel was "frozen" was "frozen". Something had to be done about the increase in all splinter parties, the coalition parties. The coalition parties should be broken up, and should be broken up. If that had been done, Knesset today would not have been anything special. It would be a normal thing, but there are splinter parties in the Israeli political system in the past, and positive.

"Basically," he said, "to be very close to the Labour, a coalition of parties to make a government, then we are all back in the boat. Something has to be done. Something really has to be done."

MOHAMMED KHALIL al-Banna of Nablus is the biggest fruit wholesaler in the West Bank, buying produce from the kibbutzim and moshavim of Galilee and the Golan, including from Labour MK Raanan Naim.

His youngest brother, Sabri al-Banna survives between the feuding secret services of Syria and Iraq and has acquired notoriety as one of the most feared and ruthless Palestinian terrorists. Many, if not most, of his victims have been Arabs and even Palestinians who support the man he loathes — PLO chairman and Fatah leader Yasser Arafat.

Sabri is better known by his *nom de guerre*, "Abu Nidal." His organization, the Palestine National Liberation Movement, was one of the first to claim responsibility for Monday's terrorist attack in the heart of Jerusalem.

It is one of the fascinating aspects of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians that members of the same family and clan can surface in such different roles on different sides of the borders. Jamil al Amla, the chairman of the West Bank village leagues, has a first cousin who was one of the leaders of the anti Arafat rebellion in Tripoli last year. One of the largest clans in the East Jerusalem area has a West Bank member who favours relatively high-profile contacts with Israelis, another who is a senior officer in the Jordanian air force, and still another with the anti-Arafat rebels in Lebanon.

ON TUESDAY, the day after the attack in King George Street which I had witnessed, I travelled to Nablus to meet Mohammed al-Banna or "Abu Jihad" as he is better known. Reports about the attack had indicated that one of the terrorists had been carrying a Skorpion machine pistol, one of Abu Nidal's favourite weapons. I wanted to hear about the family that has produced one of the most notorious revolutionaries since the sinister 19th century Russian anarchist V.S. Nechayev gave the world the still surviving symbol of terrorism — a round black bomb with a burning fuse.

Last year I had visited another member of the clan — Yussuf, a textile merchant in Nablus. His son Murwan, 20, was sentenced last March to 30 years' imprisonment for his part in the June, 1982 attempted assassination of Israel's ambassador in London, Shlomo



The brothers al-Banna

Meet the brothers al-Banna. One trades in apples and bananas. Another in grenades booby traps and assassinations. David Richardson reports.

Argov. It was the attempt on Argov's life that sparked off Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Mohammed had been unwilling to meet me then. On Tuesday he was still reluctant. He needed authorization from the military government, "otherwise 'Captain Abu Ghazal' of the *mukhabarat* [the General Security Service] will bother me," he insisted, over the phone.

The unnecessary authorization was obtained, but still Mohammed was evasive. "I thought maybe you were from Gush Emunim and were coming to kill me," he said later, when we met.

We sat in his office above his warehouse in the large Nablus

wholesale market. Outside, it was dark and quiet, the only sounds coming from barking dogs. There was an overpowering smell of apples; through the window overlooking the warehouse I could see piles of cartons marked "Galilee Apples" and "Fruits of the Golan" — packed at the regional packing facility — Katzrin.

The plastic walls of the tatty office were decorated with large posters of Israeli fruit and the Chaplin-like image of "Albert the Fruiterer," the popular personality associated with the Fruit Marketing Board's promotion effort.

"PEOPLE in the West Bank have learnt to eat avocado and even kiwi

fruit," Mohammed said, pointing to some of the pictures on the wall.

A large man with a receding hairline and a strong squint, he chuckled and smiled easily and chain-smoked while he spoke of his family and his youngest brother.

"My father, Haj Khalil, was the wealthiest man in Palestine. He used to market 10 per cent of all the

Palestinian produce to Europe — mainly to England and to Germany. He had a house in Marseilles, one in Turkey and another in Alexandria, then in Syria. He inherited a lot from my grandfather. He died in 1945 in his eighties.

"We used to live in Jaffa. We had a large, 18 or 20-room house in the Ajame quarter. I remember we used

to swim in the sea at Bat Yam. We were also the only family with a swimming pool.

"We had horses in stables at Yavne and at Ashkelon. The family owned orange groves in Ashkelon, Abu Khabir and at Kfar Sava. Kibbutz Ramat Hakovesh have a grove near Taibe in the triangle which is still referred to as the 'al-Banna grove.' We also had 4,800 dunams at Heletz in the Negev. For all these properties we still have the *tabu* certificates issued by the British.

"My father was friendly with Avraham Shapira [the founder of the Hashomer self-defence movement] and with Chaim Weizmann. I remember visiting Weizmann twice at his home in Rehovot as a boy.

"There were seven sons and three daughters. All except myself were sent to school and were well educated. Because of my eyes I could not study, and to this day I cannot read and write.

"In 1948, during the war, we left the house in Jaffa and went to a villa in some orange groves we owned near Ashkelon. My mother left all her gold behind because she said we would be returning in two days. In 1949, we left Ashkelon for Gaza where we remained for about a year and then moved to Nablus. Some of the family moved to Jordan.

"My mother died in 1969. She did not want to go back to Jaffa after 1967. She said that she had had eight maids and servants and she was ashamed to go back now as a refugee. The house is now used by the army or the police.

"In Nablus we were well received because my father used to employ labourers from there. He used to employ Jews as well.

"I STARTED working when I was 16 or 17. Abu Nidal was sent to school; for a short while he went to a very good school in Jerusalem, where they taught French and English. He was always very stubborn. Once, my mother had enough money to buy him a suit, which he wore to school. On the first day he came back without the jacket, and

when she asked him what he had done with it he told her he had given it to a poor boy in his class.

"He completed his studies in Nablus and then went to Cairo where he qualified as an engineer. After that my eldest brother Zakariya arranged work for him in Saudi Arabia. He wrote text books which are still studied at university.

It was in Saudi Arabia, apparently, that Abu Nidal first began his subversive activities, and he was forced to leave that country.

"He used to visit my mother every year and I don't even remember him talking against the Jews or the Zionists. He married a woman from Jaffa in Nablus before 1967 and he has two daughters and one son — Nidal. We lost contact with him after the war. As far as I know he now lives in Damascus.

"It's very sad now. I am the only one who remains in Nablus. One brother lives in Florida, two have died, and others live in Jordan. There is no contact between any of us. There are between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the al-Banna clan. All of them love Abu Nidal. I am friendly with the Jews and I speak good Hebrew. They tell me sometimes, 'Your brother did this or has done that,' but their hatred or anger is never directed at me."

"I don't think I would like to be in his position. I was never jealous because he went to study while I couldn't because of the problems with my eyes."

The interview ended and Abu Jihad insisted on giving me some of his fruit. I wondered at this apparently gentle man who has, like his brother, chosen, a strongly nationalistic name for his first son. "Jihad" means holy war. "Nidal" means struggle. The military authorities and the security service, he says, no longer bother him about his infamous brother.

He had to be up early the next day, he said, to buy more fruit. Where will you be going — the Galilee, the Golan? I asked. "In-sh'allah," he replied.

Evidence of Israelite idolatry

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH/Jerusalem Post Reporter

AN ANCIENT inscription found across the Jordan River and mentioning the biblical soothsayer Balaam may have revealed for the first time a temple of Israelites who worshipped strange gods.

Prof. Baruch A. Levine of New York University, participating in the First International Congress of Archaeology in Jerusalem this week, suggested that the Balaam inscription from Deir Alla, which electrified the archaeological world when it was publicized in 1976, may be an example of the "iniquitous practices in the Gilead region denounced by the prophet Hosea.

"Israelite culture was much more extensive than monotheism," he said.

Although the culture at Deir Alla, five kms. east of the Jordan River, embraced the biblical figure of Balaam, it also embraced a goddess and the regional god, El, rather than the Hebrew god, Yahweh.

"There is a difference between religion and culture," noted Levine, a professor of Hebrew and Near East languages. "This was an Israelite culture."

Gilead, which extended from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea east of the river, was predominantly Israelite, although other peoples lived there as well. While most of the Israelite tribes settled west of the Jordan, two and a half tribes — Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh — remained east of the river.

There have been relatively few archaeological excavations in this antiquity-rich area, but the inscription on plaster found in 1967 by Dutch archaeologists is apparently the copy of a manuscript.

As published by J. Hoffjager and G. Van de Kooij, the fragmentary inscription clearly mentioned "Balaam, son of Beor, the man who was a seer." The Bible tells how Balaam, son of Beor, was asked by Balak, king of Moab, to curse the Israelites encamped in Moab on their way to the Promised Land. Instead, Balaam repeatedly praised

them, once with the famous lines, "How fair are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel."

IF THE INSCRIPTION is what he thinks it is, said Levine, it would be the first non-monotheistic Israelite literary text ever found. It is not clear altogether from the language which people wrote it.

Prof. Andre Lemaire, who also presented a paper on the inscription, believed the language to be old Aramaic and saw in the inscription a clear case of contact between ancient Hebrew and Aramaic literature.

Levine, however, suggested it was a regional language spoken by the Israelites in Gilead. "We're not speaking of Israelite influence on other people or vice versa or a shared culture, but of a regional manifestation of Israelite culture, northern Israelite culture, in Gilead. This was a non-yahwistic temple serving a predominantly Israelite population."

A key question is the dating of the inscription. If it post-dated the Assyrian invasion of 734 B.C.E. in which the Israelite residents of Gilead were carried into captivity, this would argue against any direct Israelite connection. If it was written before the Assyrian invasion, when Israelites constituted the bulk of the population in Gilead, this would support the non-monotheistic Israelite theory.

The inscription was not found *in situ* and its dating is therefore difficult. Levine believes it was written before the Assyrian invasion, but other prominent scholars believe it was written afterwards.

Excavations are to resume at Deir Alla in the near future and may shed more light on the issue. "We're still at the beginning," said Levine. "We know very little about life in Gilead.

Until King Hussein comes to pay a state visit to Jerusalem, Israeli scholars will have to glean what they can about their ancestors in Transjordan from learned journals.

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around, it was impossible for the man who led the 1964 palace revolt to be allowed back into the fold. It is now apparent that none of the party leaders consulted their old boss until Shamir's Tuesday visit to the ex-premier's home. Still Herut central committee chairman Avraham Schechterman declared this week that "for me, Menachem Begin is still the party leader."

IF BEGIN does not occupy a "safe" seat, the family name will certainly be on the list of his movement. The ex-premier's first born son, Dr. Blayama Ze'ev Begin, seems certain to be accorded a prime spot on the ticket, along with another son of "the fighting family," government secretary Dan Meridor.

The Likud list will probably also include such new faces as Mifal Hapayis chairman Gideon Gadot, nephew of Begin's old lieutenant, the late Arye Ben-Eliezer. I'm told that the faction led by Defence Minister Moshe Arens would like to see Blayama (BIM) Netanyahu on the party list, but it's doubtful whether this promising young man would relinquish his position as No. 2 at the Washington embassy.

EFFORTS are continuing to bring former chief-of-staff Rafael (Rafal) Eitan into Herut in time for the election list submission deadline. The aim is to draw right-wing voters from Rafal's Tzomet movement and to counter the influence of Arik Sharon, with whom he has been on bad personal terms since the Fifties, when they were both in the paratroops. It is not yet clear whether Rafal will cast his lot with Herut, or opt for Tehiya.

What is clear is that, notwithstanding her loud denials, Genia Cohen would love to return home to Herut. It's no secret that Tehiya's Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman would love to see "La Passionara" go to Herut.

MEANWHILE, the National Religious Party is sinking into deeper disarray. While Religious Affairs ministry director-general Rabbi Moshe Salomon, heir to the leadership of his minister Yosef Burg's Lamifne faction, is seeking a united election bloc with Agudat Yisrael, his opponents have mobilized Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, to ask party members to veto any alliance with the non-Zionist bloc. Instead the Chief Rabbi urged unification with the right-wing faction led by Rabbi Haim Druckman and Haim Porat.

The latter's expectation that 75-year-old Burg would honour a promise to retire from politics in two years' time, brought the wily old politician to blandly retort: "I only mentioned the possibility of retiring. I never committed myself to retire."

MIXUP DEPARTMENT. No one was more surprised than Knesset

Speaker Menachem Savidor this week. The Speaker, about to address a meeting of the Rotary Club, found before him the text he'd prepared for an ORT meeting.

Now that he's made a bid for the Liberal Party leadership, we can only hope that Savidor won't mix up his speeches in his confrontations with Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

NOT COWED. Israel Kessar, the Histadrut's No. 2 man, was visiting the cow barns at Kibbutz Tel Yosef this week. Told that Tel Yosef was the largest dairy in the Middle East, Kessar quipped: "You've forgotten the government. It milks the public even more."

WEST GERMANY'S Hebrew-speaking ambassador, Niels Hansen, recently was installed as the president of the 100-member Rotary Club of Tel Aviv-Jaffa. Hansen is the second foreign diplomat so honoured; the first was Pierre Gilbert, the late French ambassador, who occupied the post in the Fifties.

BROKEN PROMISE. Egypt has reneged on its pledge to allow young Israeli Arabs to study for the Moslem priesthood at Cairo's al-Azhar university, according to Mapam MK Mohammed Wattad. Wattad, talking to newsmen at a Kerem Shalom celebration of the peace treaty's fifth anniversary, said that this was in violation of personal commitments made to him by both late president Anwar Sadat, and President Hosni Mubarak.

According to Wattad, five students who had gone to Egypt after preliminary tests in Tel Aviv and been held incommunicado in a hotel room for a fortnight. They were then sent back to Israel, without any acceptable explanation.

SENTIMENTAL STAR. Barbra Streisand has certainly seen her movie *Yentl* hundreds of times. But the singer-actress-director-producer still could not help from weeping when, at the Tel Aviv premiere, she saw herself on the screen singing "Papa Can You Hear Me."

The star's visit to Israel was certainly a success. One of her few disappointments was when the Tel

Aviv Hilton served her *croissants*, and not bagels, for breakfast. In the end, according to Hilton PR officer Ofra Barla-Adar, she settled for a Danish pastry. I was also told that Streisand does not like sweets, chocolates, but loves fruit.

The star's good image was not shared by her PR man, Lee Saker, who made less than a hit with the local press and photography corps.

Among the less-noticed stops on the Streisand itinerary were her visits to the Weizmann Institute and Beth Hatzefuth. In Rehovot, she was the luncheon guest of Mrs. Sara Sela. Mrs. Sela's husband, Institute president Prof. Michael Sela, had to fly abroad that morning.

Miriam Ben-Haim, public relations director of Beth Hatzefuth, arranged a special evening visit to the museum, after crowds had made serious sight-seeing impossible. During Streisand's scheduled afternoon visit, Barbra and her brother Sheldon were particularly interested in the Diaspora Museum's film on pre-Holocaust Europe, and in the museum computer's print-out of Minsk, which is their maternal grandmother's Elin family, from Minsk.

LAUGHING MATTERS. Paul Hirschhorn, the 34-year-old English-language public relations director at the Technion in Haifa, has just published a volume of jokes from Israel. One well-worn example, all worth retelling, goes like this: "An Israeli meets a friend, and tells him that he's leaving the country. For two reasons. The first is because of the government."

"Wait a minute," interrupts his friend. "You don't have to leave. The Likud is sure to lose the elections to Labour."

"To which the first Israeli replies: 'That's the second reason.'"

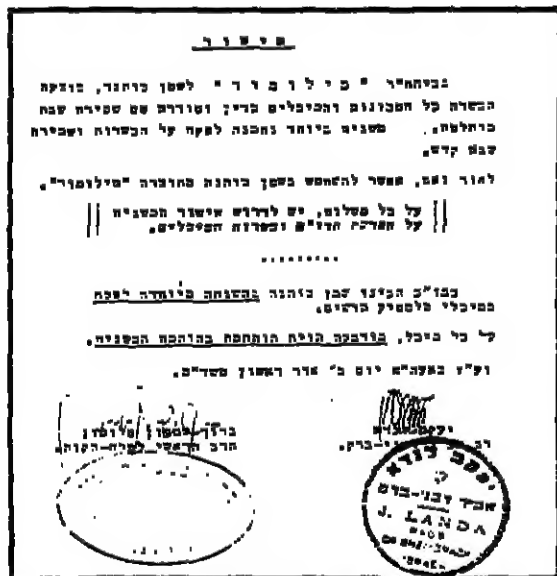
MAZAL TOV DEPT. The U.S.-born actress of the Government Press Unit recently married off his third son Yossi. The bride is Yaffa, daughter of North African immigrants. The couple will make their home in Kiryat Shalom.

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appearance is under the aegis of the party's information department, headed by Shamir lieutenant Ronnie Milo. That's an almost-certain sign that it was cleared at the highest level.

A Tamir comeback would be another sign of how much Herut has been "de-Beginized" under Shamir. As long as Menachem Begin was

was more surprised than Knesset

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FAITH ON HIGH

By ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

IN ISRAEL, even political hand-outs are linked to the consumer price index. The Agudat Yisrael shake-down artists celebrated the demise of the present Knesset session, in keeping with the times, by pushing through supplementary appropriations to the yeshiva pay-offs to compensate for rising prices. When MK Avraham Shapira says that his faith is on high, he means it all the way.

Shapira's popularity is one of the most unflattering commentaries on political norms in Israel today. As chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Bank of Israel, he was privy to the operation of the rigged market for bank stock. He shares no little part of the responsibility for the fiasco that occurred.

The demand of the attorney-general, Prof. Yitzhak Zamir, for an investigation of that sorry mess still stands — ignored, naturally enough, by those to whom it is addressed. The action or non-action of the Treasury, the Bank of Israel, and the Bank's Advisory Committee would, of course, be the object of any such investigation. The law on judicial investigations should be changed so that these may be investigated at the initiative of the attorney-general, not just of the government.

The attorney-general's proposal did not specifically include the aftermath of the banking disaster — the stock bail-out. This involves a government guarantee of paper profits so colossal that it is anyone's guess how it will be honoured when the time comes. Meanwhile, a mammoth injection of cash to finance the government's purchase of bank shares in the open market has been a major factor stoking the fires of inflation raging through the economy.

THE BANK stock bail-out will probably go down in Jewish history as the greatest rip-off since Jacob and Esau. Here again, the responsibility of Avraham Shapira was significant. Even in the wee hours of the morning of the fateful day when Shamir's newly installed cabinet finalized its disastrous decision, Shapira was there to have the deal sweetened.

Whether operating for the Council of Banking Sages or the Council of Tora Sages, Shapira has been in a

class by himself. According to tradition, the Aga Khan is honoured on his birthday by his devoted Ismaili Moslem adherents by receiving his weight in gold. Shapira has a birthday every few months.

While manipulating the political institutions for all they are worth, if not more, Shapira has not disguised the disdain with which he regards them. Recently, he took off against a statement of the attorney-general affirming the legal superiority of Knesset legislation over halachic rules. Prof. Zamir was, of course, merely repeating what the High Court has declared whenever the occasion required.

For Shapira, however, Zamir's statement evoked a rare display of emotion. "O! to the ears that thus have heard!" In his blackest dream he would not have imagined such a statement, he declared to a *Ma'ariv* interviewer.

He went on to characterize the work of the Knesset, in which he serves as chairman of the coalition, as "law that passed through the fingers of the parties, which are always in the midst of intrigues; and in many cases, people vote for laws without knowing what they are voting about — and I am responsible for what I say."

This is more than just an empirical observation, from someone who ought to know. It is part of the comprehensive ideology of the anti-Zionist Aguda, which also dictates its abstention from participation in the government. It is not modesty or puritanical abstinence that keeps the Aguda from sharing the spoils of office, but rather a consistent denial of the legitimacy of the Zionist state. For the same reason, the Tora Sages refused to rise out of respect for the president in a Jerusalem boncave a few years ago.

CONSISTENCY, however, has its limitations. It applies to the Zionist state, not to Zionist money. That is the reason why Agudat Yisrael has attached more importance to the coalition agreement than to the government's guidelines.

Menachem Begin, as leader of the opposition, regarded the latter as tantamount to law, as they had the approval of a majority of the Knesset. In 1971, he charged the government with violating a decision of the Knesset, when governmental action, in his view,

contravened the Knesset-approved guidelines.

In 1981, however, when the second Likud government was installed, the coalition agreement carefully diverged from the guidelines, so that the Aguda could be taken care of. The guidelines provided: "27. Education will be based on the eternal values of Israel's Tora, on the values of Judaism and Zionism, love of the people of Israel, and love of the homeland."

The coalition agreement made it clear that the independent Aguda school system need not teach Zionist values. According to Section 33, "The government will diligently work towards expanding and deepening the teaching of Jewish and Zionist values in state schools and state religious schools." (Emphasis supplied)

Aguda schools are neither state schools nor state religious schools. Therefore, the Aguda educational network (unlike schools in the Arab sector) receives Zionist funding without having to teach Zionist values.

SHAPIRA views the state in terms of deals, rather than of laws approved by the Knesset or policy declared by the government. He would cheerfully subscribe to the definition of politics as the art of who gets what, when and how. In the interview, his criticism of the political process focused on his charge that some of the coalition deals had not been kept, contrary to his business ethics that a deal is a deal. Next time, he gave notice, "You can be sure I'll know how it's done." Believe it.

This bundle of attitudes, not just his undoubted personal charm, is the key to Shapira's popularity. He strikes a chord in the anti-politics that is a strong theme in Israel's political culture today, a popular debunking of political institutions. It goes along with Abuhazzeira's success in projecting his Robin Hood image, whatever the courts may say.

Avraham Shapira will feel at home in whatever coalition emerges from the coming elections. He can expect to preserve his popularity, whichever way he goes. The Israeli public loves a real operator, and he is the best that money can buy.



Mr. Reagan's even-handedness

By WOLF BLITZER

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan's nationally televised news conference on Wednesday night reinforced some long-standing impressions about his policies in the Middle East. And that could portend serious problems in his quest for American Jewish support against his Democratic challenger in November.

Shortly after Reagan stopped answering reporters' questions in the East Room of the White House, some of the top Jewish supporters active in his re-election campaign started to worry about the president's statements, especially his comments about maintaining an "even-handed" approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Reagan also expressed the hope that Jordan's King Hussein might still agree to enter peace talks with Israel.

His use of the word even-handed — long considered a code-word among Middle East observers — was seen in Washington as referring indirectly to his administration's strong efforts to block the passage in Congress of legislation forcing the transfer of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. No specific reference was made to this issue at the news conference.

Both democratic front-runners, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart,

support the move. Reagan and the third Democratic candidate, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, oppose it, fearing it would prejudice the final status of Jerusalem and might even spark anti-American violence throughout the Arab and Moslem worlds. The issue has been widely debated and publicized in the U.S. in recent weeks.

REAGAN did not make a specific reference to this issue at the news conference. At the same time, he did not criticize Hussein for lashing out against the U.S. last month and for refusing to get involved in the U.S.-sponsored peace process. This also was in marked contrast to the latest spate of statements by both Mondale and Hart bitterly condemning Hussein's refusal to sit at a negotiating table with Israel.

Instead, the president simply repeated what he has said on so many occasions in the past — namely, that his September 1, 1982, Arab-Israeli peace initiative "continues to be our plan."

"I believe that King Hussein still

feels and believes that he would have to be an important part, being the next door neighbour to Israel, in bringing about such negotiations," he said. "I continue to believe in this. This is the answer. It's what started us from the very beginning in the Middle East — to continue the Camp David process, to persuade other nations to do what Egypt did in making that peace."

"At the present moment, you have a group of Arab nations who still have never retreated from their position that Israel does not have a right to exist as a nation, and we're trying to persuade them that we can be even-handed, and we're not trying to dictate any peace of any kind; that we simply want to be of help if we can as an intermediary in bringing about a negotiation that will erase the issues and the problems that have kept them apart, so that they can settle back and live in peace together. We're going to continue to try to do it."

THAT STATEMENT was clearly designed to ease apparently mounting anti-American sentiment in the Arab world. The president has been informed by his foreign policy advisers, including Secretary of State George Shultz, that the Jerusalem embassy issue has badly damaged U.S. credibility in the Arab world. U.S. credibility had been shaken earlier by the surprisingly speedy withdrawal of U.S. military involvement in Lebanon, so soon after Reagan had pledged that America would never "bug out" of that country.

Asked whether the U.S. had lost credibility as a result of the pull-out, Reagan replied: "We may have." But he then went into a lengthy defence of the administration's record in Lebanon and the initial dispatch of the Marines to serve in the Multinational Peace-keeping force there.

He basically repeated long-standing U.S. positions, without

breaking any new ground. He explained the pull-out as resulting from the "changed situation" on the ground, especially the Syrian refusal to leave Lebanon.

The Marines were never sent to Lebanon as a fighting force, he said, merely as peace-keepers. But once they were forced to dig in to fortified positions, their role was changed and there was no longer any purpose in keeping them there.

He insisted the U.S. was still "engaged diplomatically" in seeking some end to the conflict in Lebanon. Elements in the Middle East — he did not name them — had recently sought stepped-up U.S. involvement in the diplomatic arena.

But Reagan refused to blame his own administration for the clear failures in Lebanon. Like Secretary Shultz, he blamed Congress and its opposition to the U.S. presence in Lebanon as a major factor in the setback to U.S. interests there. The debate in Washington merely encouraged America's adversaries in Lebanon and Syria to resist a diplomatic solution, convinced that

the U.S. would simply leave Lebanon in any case.

CONVERSATIONS with the Hart and Mondale camps in recent days have made it clear that they both are prepared to make the Middle East a major issue in the campaign against Reagan after the Democratic convention in San Francisco in July. Both Democratic candidates are already preparing lengthy papers — "talking points" — to outline their criticism of Reagan's record on Israel.

Finding major areas of difference will not be difficult. There have been many tense periods between Washington and Jerusalem during the Reagan administration, beginning in 1981 with the controversial Saudi Awacs sale, the temporary suspension of aircraft and arms deliveries to Israel following the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor and, later, the annexation of the Golan Heights.

Naturally, the pressures exerted on Israel during the war in Lebanon and Reagan's 1982 peace plan will be on the Democrats' agenda in seeking support from Israel's many friends in the U.S., especially in those states with large Jewish votes.

The positive things which the Reagan administration has done for

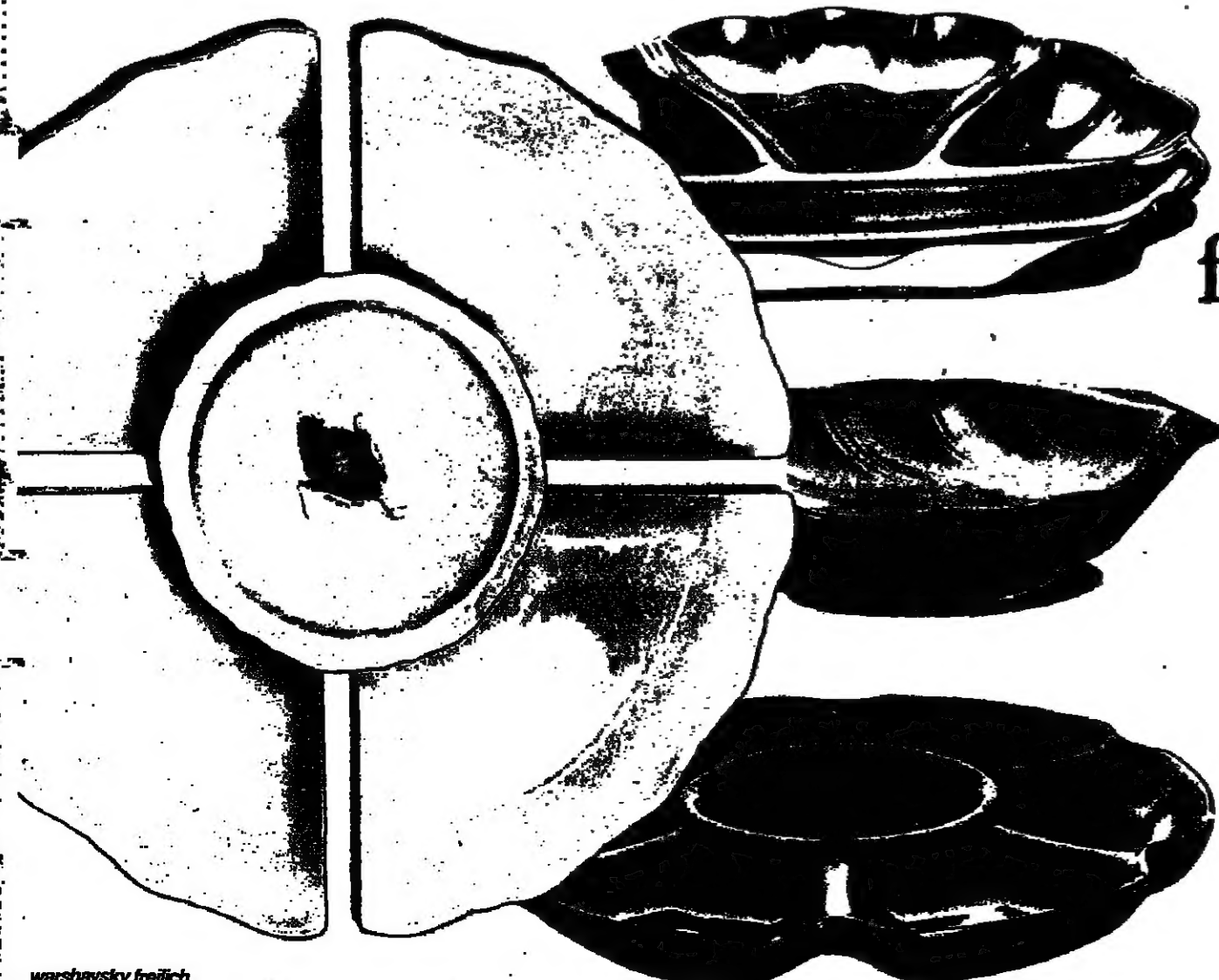
Israel — the increased economic and military assistance, the enhanced strategic and military cooperation and the prospects for a free-trade area between the two countries — will not be mentioned by the Democrats. Reagan and his supporters will highlight those points.

Already, Mondale has staked out his down-the-line support for Israel, even saying, in a nationally televised debate, that he opposes the concept of a Palestinian "homeland" on the West Bank and Gaza.

Mondale's impressive victory in New York this past week was in large measure the result of a lopsided three-to-one margin of support over Hart in the Jewish community there. If Mondale should now go on to capture Pennsylvania on Tuesday, and then the nomination in July, that solid base of Jewish support in New York will come in very handy.

And the pressure will mount on Reagan to follow the Democrats' lead by courting the Jewish vote. Thus, talk of an "even-handed" policy in the Middle East is likely to end.

The writer is the Washington correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

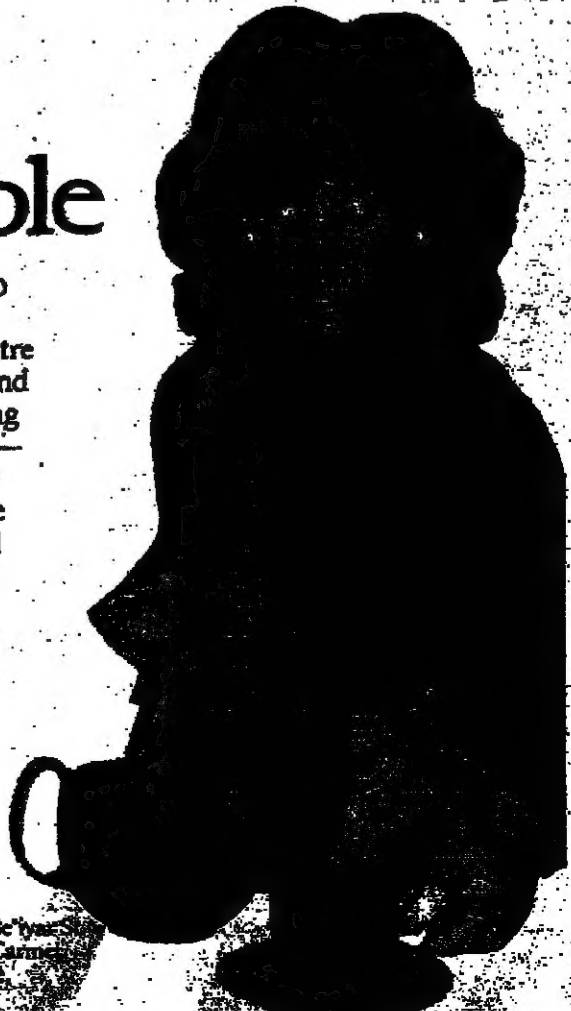


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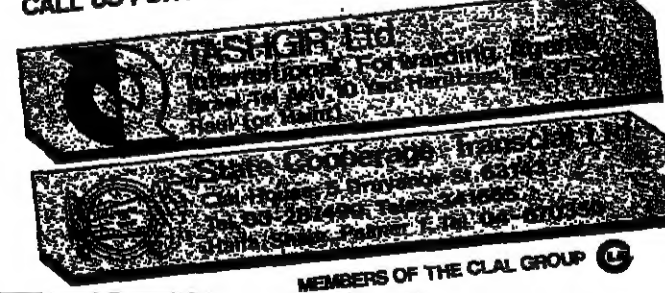
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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Auditors' Council

NOTICE CONCERNING EXAMINATION SESSION, SPRING, 1984

pursuant to the Auditors' Law, 5715-1955

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the examinations of the Auditors' Council for the spring 1984 session will take place on the following dates:

1. Tax Laws May 29, 1984 (Sivan 27, 5744)
2. Law of Bodies Corporate June 19, 1984 (Sivan 19, 5744)
3. Commercial and Labour Law June 21, 1984 (Sivan 21, 5744)

Registration for the examinations can be accomplished only by using the form which can be obtained from the offices of the Secretariat, 6 Rehov Hulei Jerusalem.

All candidates intending to apply to sit the examinations must send the completed application form, with the receipt of the Post Office Bank enclosed, so as to arrive at the Secretariat of the Council, P.O. Box 635, Jerusalem, Postcode 91006 no later than April 30, 1984 (Nisan 25, 5744). The fee for applying for each of the above subjects is IS 790.

Please Note:

1. Payment of the application fee without submission of the application form as addressed is not considered registration.
2. The question papers will be in Hebrew, but in the above three subjects an English translation will be available.
3. Candidates sitting the Tax Laws examination may use the texts of the following laws and regulations:

- (1) Income Tax Ordinance and the Regulations thereunder
- (2) Land Appreciation Tax Law, 5723-1963.
- (3) Value Added Tax Law, 5736-1975.
- (4) Encouragement of Capital Investments Law, 5718-1958.
- (5) Encouragement of Industry (Taxation) Law, 5728-1968.
- (6) Purchase Tax (Goods and Services) Law, 5712-1952.
- (7) Income Tax (Taxation under Conditions of Industrial Law, 5742-1982)

4. The amount of the fee paid will be refunded to a candidate who is unable for good reason, to sit an examination for which he is registered and whose written notice to such effect is received at the Secretariat not later than two weeks before the examination, or who submits a medical or army certificate concerning his absence from an examination, within one month of the date of the examination or release from the I.D.F.

MAYER GABAY

Chairman, The Auditors' Council

April 3, 1984

(Nisan 1, 5744)

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Eilat	6.40 p.m.	7.15 p.m.

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An effective watchdog

By MARK SEGAL/Jerusalem Post Reporter



Abe Foxman (Rahamim Israeli)

CONCERN ABOUT the emergence of "racism in reverse" in the U.S. presidential election campaign was expressed by the associate national director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, during a recent interview in his office in New York.

"Understandably, our conversation had turned to the future over Jesse Jackson's reference to Jews as 'Hymies' and New York as 'Hymie-town' and other pejorative statements, and I said that what had disturbed me was the way most of the American media had leaned over backwards to find excuses for him."

Foxman found it "incredible" that the other Democratic candidates for the presidency had failed to raise the issue of Jackson's denigration of Jews in public debates with him, and noted that "no white candidate would have been permitted to speak in the bigoted way Jackson has. Nor would the media have treated any other candidate's financial record so gingerly as they have done with Jackson."

"I mentioned talk about the rise of the black and Hispanic communities, and, lately, the increasing number of Asians in the U.S., weakening the American Jewish political influence. Was there any foundation for this?"

Foxman replied, "We are not as powerful as we think we are, nor are our enemies as weak as we think they are. We are certainly still a potent political force."

"The battle over the supply of AWACS to Saudi Arabia had left deep scars and had served as a lesson for the future. He thought it was a mistake to measure U.S. Jewish influence by that criterion. Moreover, mistakes had been made by all sides. It should always be remembered that 'there is no greater power in the U.S. than the president. Whenever he sets his mind on a certain course in foreign policy, he usually gets his way.'"

"It was obvious that one of the things he had in mind was the controversy over the Moshonkin motion to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

"He talked about what a traumatic experience the AWACS issue had been for members of the Jewish community at the time. The spectre of dual loyalty was raised. He had travelled across the country, and remembered how some Jews had told him that perhaps it would be better that the AWACS case should be lost."

"What surfaced was the intimidation of the Jewish community, Foxman charged, which came neither from Arabs nor from political extremists, but from the mainstream leadership compounded by strong hints from the White House. 'We began to hear talk of Reagan versus Begin,' as the phrase coined at the time had it."

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION League came into being in 1913, as an immediate outcome of the lynching of Leo Frank in Atlanta and the ensuing anti-Jewish riot in the capital of Georgia, the first and only pogrom on American soil.

On the 70th anniversary of the lynching, the ADL, together with the American Jewish Committee and the Atlanta Jewish Federation, filed an application with the Georgia Board of Pardons and

Paroles for the full and complete pardon of Leo Frank. They produced an 84-year-old witness, Alonzo Mann, who had come forward in 1922 to testify that he had been too terrified at Frank's trial to tell the court that he had seen the main prosecution witness, Jim Conley, a black janitor, carrying the corpse of the girl whom Frank had been unjustly accused of murdering. However the Georgia Board rejected the application.

"We have nothing to celebrate on reaching our 71st anniversary," says Foxman. "True, we have made much progress and built many bridges. But we haven't attained the goal of eradicating prejudice and anti-Semitism from America. Unlike smallpox, there is no vaccine around to cure it."

"The League's primary mandate is to fight anti-Semitism. For many years, we battled quotas on the admission of Jews into colleges and restrictions against Jews in clubs and hotels. Then we were in the forefront of the civil rights movement."

"The League has been active on the legislative front for over 40 years in every state of the union and in Congress. Thus, the ADL was instrumental decades ago in curbing Ku Klux Klan activities by drafting and lobbying for the bill outlawing the wearing of masks and hoods in public. The ADL continues to monitor legislation across the land and maintain a watch for any bid to undermine the basic U.S. constitutional tenet of the separation of church and state as enshrined in the First Amendment."

Foxman was delighted, along with the rest of the Jewish community, at Congress' dismissal of the attempt to introduce prayers into schools, seeing this, as did other minority groups, as a bid to alter the basic premise of American religious freedom.

ABE FOXMAN, as he is known to everybody, was born in Poland in 1940, and was left in the keeping of his Catholic nursemaid when his parents were rounded up by the

Nazis. After the war, having miraculously survived the death camps, they returned to reclaim him, and it required a hard legal battle before he was finally restored to them by a Vilna court. They immigrated to America, where he had both a secular and a religious education, eventually combining economic and his legal studies with advanced Judaic studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

It was as assistant director of the ADL's law department that he joined the JDL in 1965, eventually reaching his position as associate national director and head of the international division last year.

Through its 28 regional offices, the League remains the most effective watchdog of the American Jewish community. Together with the national director, Nathan Perlmutter, Abe Foxman keeps its sophisticated approach to mass communications in top gear, and maintains the reputation of its own publications for accuracy and reliability.

The League has been an important influence in aiding Latin American Jewry to combat anti-Semitism and has trained local personnel to staff Jewish community offices throughout the continent. The ADL has done more to help those Jews incarcerated in Argentine jails and to locate "desaparecidos" than other Jewish agencies through its Argentine Prisoner Project.

THE ADL HAS most certainly proven the adage that Israel's only real ally is the Jewish people, particularly by its worldwide activity in countering anti-Israel propaganda. Hebrew-speaking Abraham Foxman explains that since 1967, much of the focus of ADL work has been on Jewish interest in and concern for Israel. "We perceived that the security of Israel was intrinsically bound up with the wellbeing of U.S. Jewry," he pointed out.

Then there were issues, like the Arab boycott, that affected both Israel and citizens of the U.S.

Hence the lobbying by the ADL, along with the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, that resulted in the anti-boycott legislation passed into law during Jimmy Carter's presidency.

The ADL's office in Jerusalem, run by Harry Wall, serves, in Foxman's words, "as a liaison office and as a listening post, so that we are not totally dependent for information on government handouts."

The League's efforts to "enable the American public gain a better comprehension of Israel" include bringing an increasing number of American opinion-makers to Israel. Thus, during the past 18 months, it brought to Israel more than 10 per cent of the members of Congress.

During the Lebanon war, it sent a delegation of highly-influential retired generals, including Gen. George Patton Jr., and a group of 13 retired admirals and generals

recently visited Israel under its auspices. In reverse, the League has brought Lebanese Christians to America to tell the truth of the war and the situation to the U.S. public.

It has put together two TV programmes as part of a press kit to disseminate balanced information about Israel throughout the U.S.

"But we do so not on a crisis basis. Our aim is to enable opinion-makers to see Israel as it is. Thus we sent Senator Paul Tsongas, a Connecticut Democrat, to visit the country. Prior to his visit he had made rather simplistic statements, but on his return he conceded that, having seen things for himself, 'It's much more complex than I had previously thought.'"

Foxman pointed out that "too many Americans think there is a quickie, simple solution to the problems of the Middle East. If they obtain first-hand information, they realize that it's untrue."

HE THOUGHT the argument inside the Jewish community on whether it was legitimate to dissent from the policies of the Israeli government was a red herring.

"I can think of no other community where there are so many disagreements. No one questions anybody's right to dissent. The issue is the parameters of responsibility. I, for one, believe that in the area of national security, Israelis have greater rights than Diaspora Jews. If Israelis question their government's policies, they will have to bear the responsibility. Their children will have to do the fighting. If I dissent it won't affect my children. That's why I believe that public criticism by American Jews of Israeli security policies is arrogant and irresponsible."

However, on many domestic Israeli issues, he said, Diaspora Jews have a right to speak out. This was particularly the case on the "Who is a Jew" issue. While he himself belonged to an Orthodox congregation, he felt that if the amendment to the Law of Return were passed, it would seriously divide Israel and the Diaspora. Likewise, in the matter of extremist polarization in Israel, American Jewry had a responsibility and a role to play. "To the extent that Israelis accept that position."

His underlying premise was that the partnership between Israel and the Diaspora cannot be one way. "No one has yet set down to define the nature of this relationship. At present it appears to be a limited, and not an absolute partnership."

Answering his final question, "Who speaks for American Jewry?" Foxman dwelt on the diversity of the community and its organized bodies. This was in direct contrast to the perception of the Jews' enemies that the community was monolithic. At his most diplomatic, the ADL executive said, "Each organization speaks for its particular segment."

In the past, the League and the American Jewish Committee ran the Joint Defence Appeal, but 20 years ago they separated, "and we have raised more money separately ever since." But there was functional co-ordination between the various Jewish organizations which produce an American Jewish consensus on such issues as Israel and Soviet Jewry through the Presidents' Conference. "It's much more effective than having 17 different voices speaking on such major matters," he said.

Impressive partners

By GREER FAY CASHMAN/Jerusalem Post Reporter

PHILIP BERMAN of Allentown, Pennsylvania, celebrated his bar mitzvah in January, but continued the festivities this week with the dedication of a \$1.5 million fund for fellowships, scholarships and professorships at the Hebrew University.

The mind boggles at the thought of a bar mitzvah boy swimming in so tranquil an economic sea. Well, Berman is not exactly a boy. His bar mitzvah ceremony was delayed by 56 years because there was no Jewish community in Klinesville near Pennsylvania, where he was raised. "I never got to a larger Jewish community until I married a Zionist," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Dr. Muriel Berman, his wife of more than four decades and his partner in scores of business, educational, cultural and philanthropic projects, has the distinction of having been elected, three years ago, the first woman president of the Jewish Publication Society of America.

The farm-boy son of immigrant parents, Philip Berman grew up to be the embodiment of the American dream. He made several fortunes — first from trucking, and subsequently from nursing homes and a chain of department stores.

GENEROSITY is the prerogative of the tycoon, and the Bermans have exercised it to the hilt. In Israel, they have been especially generous to Hadassah and the Hebrew University, their gifts including a national medical library, an apartment home for nurses at Ein Karem and a 350-seat auditorium at the hospital on Mount Scopus.

But in future, it's unlikely that they will yield to requests for funds for more edifices, unless they come within the definition of art, for which they share a passion. Their magnificent collection — most of it on loan — is the envy of museums and art galleries. "Content is more important than structure," says Philip Berman. "With coming technology, buildings will be obsolete anyway."

As chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Television Commission, which operates a network of seven broadcasting units for the State's school and higher-education system, Berman is acutely technology conscious. "With new technology," he asserts, "more things can be done better with the electronic media than with bricks and mortar." That is only one part of his argument for favouring scholarships and fellowships. The



Dr. Muriel Berman (left) and Philip Berman

(D.R. Guthrie)

other is the quality of the educational and cultural leadership. "Without a better developed leadership in areas of expertise," he says, "you don't have anything."

In line with this kind of thinking, the Bermans are sponsoring a new programme in which Hadassah nurses will spend three years at the University of Pennsylvania's Nursing School to earn a doctoral degree. The first one is now in her second year there; another will leave for America this year, and a third next year.

As Philip Berman sees it, this programme will enhance not only nursing education, but Israel's entire health system.

IN ANOTHER FIELD, the Bermans are easing in where the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption is easing out. The most serious problem confronting new immigrants is employment and, after acquiring it, tenure. Very often, there have been job vacancies but no budget for the relevant salaries. The Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency stepped in to subsidize the salaries. But in most cases, individual appointments were for just under a year, to preclude the acquisition of tenure. Persons hired in the 11th or 12th month were rehired in the 13th.

It was an unsatisfactory solution, and to give qualified scientists and scholars a greater sense of permanency, the Bermans have, through American Friends of the Hebrew University, established some teaching fellowships. Successful candidates will be appointed lecturers or senior lecturers at the

university for periods of three to five years, and will later qualify for tenured positions there. It helps to be part of the furniture when questions of tenure are being decided.

The Bermans' most recent endowment will facilitate the enlargement of exchange programmes between Israel's institutes of higher learning and the university of Pennsylvania. Under the present system, exchanges are made for periods ranging from one semester to one year. Insofar as the Hebrew University is concerned, visiting professorships will, in exceptional cases, be awarded for periods of up to two years.

"You can do so much more without being tied down by plumbing and heating, which dilute funds," says Berman. The same philosophy is the springboard for a plethora of Berman-inspired projects in American universities.

What drives the Bermans to give so much of themselves and their wealth to advance culture and education? "I always felt that I never had enough of it myself," says Philip. "I'm fascinated by books, education, arts and cultural experiences. I can't sing, but I can go to the opera. What this world needs is more interested audiences demanding better products than we have — and I'm one of the audience who wants to make it a better event."

Fine, but that's not the whole explanation. Berman puts a cap on it: "If you have to do something you don't like, it's work. If you do something you do like, it's fun. Muriel and I just go through life having fun."

U.S. AID

took for the Israelis to vet various schemes also indicates that projects in agriculture, industry, electricity and classroom construction take more than a year to obtain a reply. Road and water projects and community and health programmes receive replies within six to seven months.

"The Israeli authorities turn down almost all projects that involve the purchasing of tractors, bulldozers or any other earth-moving equipment. This policy may be attributed to preventing Palestinians from reclaiming rough or stony ground otherwise claimed by the Israeli authorities as 'state land.'"

Benvenisti found only 15 per cent of the projects connected with the processing of agricultural produce, such as dairies or hatcheries, were approved and he surmises that this is the result of Israeli economic protectionism.

Only one third of the projects related to industrial machinery are approved. By comparison 81 per cent of the projects for drinking water and sewage, electricity and roads and 71 per cent of those in health were given the go-ahead by the military authorities.

The military government's economic policies are "an important component in controlling a hostile population," Benvenisti concludes. "Curbing the development of a viable and independent Palestinian economic sector forces the Palestinians into dependence on Israel. Continued individual prosperity militates against effective communal organization and pursuit

of communal goals." He warns, however, that in the long term it can be argued that individual prosperity produces rising expectations and the conditions for the articulation of defined social and political objectives which Israel would want to avoid.

The emphasis on consumption-orientated public works projects "reduces the budgetary burden on the Israeli government" in fields that it would normally be responsible for, he found. "Directing U.S. (and Jordanian) funds mainly to these projects enables Israel to free its own public funds for other purposes," (among them settlements).

Benvenisti faults what he terms the "passive role of the U.S. government" which is seldom involved in the negotiations between the Israeli authorities and the voluntary organizations promoting a particular project. The U.S. is apparently unwilling to use its political clout on behalf of the organizations and Benvenisti concludes that this low profile and indirect role is "deliberate and intended to reduce friction with Israel."

A spokesman for the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, which is most directly involved in the activities of the American-funded voluntary organizations in the West Bank, declined to comment yesterday, saying the study "had not yet been analysed." But the spokesman, Bill Cavness, added that the object of the programme was not to pacify the Palestinians. "It's a controversial issue since lots of Palestinians make that argument while Israelis claim that we are laying the ground for a Palestinian state," he said.

EBAN-MUBARAK

(Continued from Page One)

of relations with Egypt as evinced by the Shamir government.

On another matter, Eban was unable to obtain a satisfactory reply from the Egyptians concerning what course they would recommend should Jordan and the Palestinians persist in their refusal to negotiate with Israel.

"It was apparent from Mubarak's welcome to Eban in his own home and the red-carpet treatment he was given on his arrival yesterday that Egypt wishes the encounter to be publicized in Israel and in the U.S. However, Eban's presence has been kept out of the Egyptian press, except for the leftist opposition daily *A-Shaab* which printed a virulent attack on the government's invitation and termed Eban "the product of a terrorist organization."

Otherwise Egyptians did not know Eban was here. Three reporters attended Eban's lecture Wednesday at the diplomatic centre, but not a word appeared in the papers.

Eban's lecture was the first ever given by an Israeli to Egyptian foreign-service officials, many of whom had never met an Israeli before. It was apparent that the diplomats had a genuine wish to learn about Israel.

Eban opened in classical Arabic, to the pleasure of his audience, and then continued in English, discussing changes in diplomacy in the past generation.

Facing questions, Eban regretted that American armed involvement in Beirut had diminished its chances

of mediating between Israel and Syria, arguing that the Americans "behaved like a referee who suddenly scores goals for one side."

Asked about the PLO, Eban told his audience that "we have failed to find a single PLO statement of having given up its design to destroy Israel." He said: "The Palestinians have never missed a chance of losing an opportunity" for reaching an accommodation.

Israel has no interest in controlling forever Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem, he said, recalling that in 1967 an official letter to that effect was sent to the UN secretary-general by an Israeli cabinet committee that included minister-without-portfolio Menachem Begin.

Ghali's dinner party Wednesday night for Eban and his wife was held in the Nile Hilton penthouse restaurant, and both Ghali and Eban toasted in Arabic the continuing peace between Israel and Egypt. The guests included presidential adviser Osama Al-Baz; ex-health minister Mahmoud Mahfouz, today a senior senator; Deputy Minister Abd al Hamid; Ghali's political counsellor, Ahmed Goma'a, until recently No. 2 at the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv; Egypt's first ambassador to Israel, Said Mortada; Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sasson and Professor Shimon Shamir, head of the Israel Academic Centre in Cairo.

Eban and his wife returned home last night.

JUBILANT PERES

(Continued from Page One)

without work, no loans that do not have to be paid back, no greater Israel with a great ally.

"Our goal is a country that flourishes from the fruits of its labour, an egalitarian society, members of the population who look after each other and do not incite against each other, a nation that unites in war or of no alternative but does not turn its back to peace, that demands of itself and is not contemptuous of the rest of the world."

Peres said Labour will ask the voters for an absolute majority to relieve it of the need to depend on the small parties and their splinters. Labour, he said, will seek to make the Israeli economy "one of the most advanced of this world." It will establish science-based industries in slums and development towns where higher salaries would help close the socio-economic gap, he said. There will be decentralization and more power for the local authorities. There will be tolerance between the secular and religious communities and between the

society's different ethnic components. Arabs and Druse will be encouraged to become actively involved in Israeli society.

Navon, in his first speech before the central committee in six years, vowed that he will contribute all he can to its "unity and victory." The fact that he had considered challenging Peres for the leadership did not indicate that "I doubted his leadership, that I did not believe in his ability or that I considered my own qualifications greater than his. If he wins the premiership he will skillfully steer the ship of state, with sanity and initiative, and will pull this nation out of the abyss of despair up to the peaks of hope."

Rabin uncharacteristically opened his address with an attempt at a joke: "The names Shimon and Yitzhak once had a special connotation in the party. But now we can speak of Shimon and the two Yitzhaks (himself and Navon). One Yitzhak was the fifth president and I was the fifth premier. We decided not to challenge Shimon and help his election as the eighth premier."

Turkish troops storm hijacked airliner

ISTANBUL (AP). — Turkish security forces stormed a hijacked Saudi Airlines passenger jet last night and captured the hijackers in an operation that wounded several persons, official sources said.

They said the operation at the Yesilkoy airport lasted for seven minutes. The security forces took control of the plane at 8:45 p.m., some two hours after it had landed.

(In Jeddah, the official Saudi press agency said all passengers on board had disembarked safely, but the national carrier declined to disclose names.)

One source said one terrorist and one passenger were injured during the takeover of the plane, but there was no information available yet on the identity or the number of hijackers or those wounded. Turkish press reports identified them variously as Palestinian or Armenian.

The Saudi airliner was diverted from its scheduled flight from Jeddah to the Syrian capital of Damascus, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

Earlier, Anatolia said English-speaking hijackers had demanded refueling at Yesilkoy so they could fly to Stockholm.

Iran issues London edition of the 'Protocols of Zion'

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — The Iranian Embassy is distributing extracts from *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the notorious anti-Semitic forgery. The extracts are contained in a "special issue" of *Iman*, published by the press and information department of the Iranian Embassy, to mark the fifth anniversary of "the glorious Islamic Revolution in Iran."

Health fund MDs oppose Modan on drugs

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Doctors associated with the various health funds say they will demonstrate outside the Health Ministry if the director-general, Professor Baruch Modan, does not rescind his recommendation that narcotic addicts get their special withdrawal drug, Adolan, through the health funds of which they are members.

The doctors, backed by social workers and professors of medicine from the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and Haifa University, contend that the presence of the addicts in the public clinics will disrupt work and make it impossible to care for other patients.

But Modan maintains that addiction is a disease and should be the responsibility of the health funds, like any other disease.

The spokesman of the Histadrut's Kupat Holim Clalit told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that

Modan's move is an attempt to circumvent the decisions of the Mann Committee, that narcotic addicts are not ill, but that addiction is a social problem. It recommended that a number of centres for narcotics withdrawal be set up where addicts could receive psychiatric care and social services as well as withdrawal drugs. The committee was set up two years ago by Deputy Prime Minister David Levy and was headed by Prof. Kalman Mann, former director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization.

Modan is expected to act in the matter when he returns from abroad next week. He is empowered by law to order the clinics to provide this service.

HIKERS — A new service for hikers in the Eilat area, including day-long guided walks, has been made available under the auspices of the local branch of the Nature Reserves Authority. Hikers may register by calling 059-76018.

SHARON

(Continued from Page One)

Arens' attack came at a meeting of Herut's academic division at Mezudat Ze'ev, the party's headquarters in Tel Aviv. He did not mention Sharon by name or title, but left no doubt about whom he was criticizing.

"None of us can imagine it possible to win the elections unless we create an honest picture that we are united," Arens declared.

He went on to praise Deputy Prime Minister David Levy for stepping aside and added that he was calling on "everybody" to follow that example.

In a clear reference to Sharon's constant public criticism of the government's policies, Arens said: "We expect to hear criticism of the government's policy — but from the Alignment! But from our own ranks, our own people, we have every right to demand support for the government's policy."

Olim total in March down 29% from February

Nine hundred and seventy-four olim arrived in the country in March, compared with 1,373 olim in February — a drop of 29 per cent, the Absorption Ministry said yesterday. The March figures also represent a 10 per cent drop from the same month last year.

The ministry said there were 228 olim from Eastern Europe, of whom 208 came from Rumania and only 17 from the Soviet Union. The number of new settlers from Western Europe was 196, of whom 89 came from France and 61 from Britain. There were 196 olim from Latin America, including 56 from Argentina, and 138 from the U.S. (Itim)

New bond issue succeeds

TEL AVIV. — Shares slumped heavily in more active trading yesterday, while bond prices continued to improve, allowing the Bank of Israel to market the first new bond issues since the crisis of last October.

The bank was offering \$300 million nominal value of a dollar-linked bond of the Gilboa series, and the issuing price was 93. Given the high yields available in dollar-linked bank shares — in the order of 15 per cent or more — it seems surprising that investors should be attracted to an alternative government-backed debt which offers much less, and has a later maturity date. Nevertheless, perhaps as a result of clever marketing, bids were received for almost three times the amount offered.

As a result of this success, further new bond issues are planned for next week. The failure of the Bank of Israel to sell any new bonds has been one of the main reasons for the shortfall in government revenues in recent months. The massive redemptions of old debts that are now looming, only increased the

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By PINHAS LANDAU

need to tap new sources of funds, if the hemorrhage in the budget is to be stemmed.

The need to market new issues also explains the steady rise in bond prices in the secondary market — those series already issued and trading. Most analysts have no doubt that the sharp rise seen in the bond market throughout the week was engineered by the Bank of Israel in order to bring existing yields to levels at which new issues would seem attractive. Money spent in such an operation would be more than recouped by the receipts obtained from sales of new bonds.

A quite different pattern was evident in the share market. An already poor week was closed out by the worst single performance as prices slid sharply lower.

The statistics made grim reading,

with the General Share Index down almost 4 per cent, the non-bank index off 6.44 per cent, investment companies an amazing 9.1 per cent in one day and even the "arrangement" bank index 2.5 per cent lower.

A full 227 shares traded down by 5 per cent or more, with a further 162 not traded at all due to lack of buyers, and being marked instead under the all-too-familiar "sellers only" sign. Half-a-dozen issues moved up by significant margins, of which two were "buyers only."

Volume on the share market expanded under the impetus of the heavy selling pressure, and despite the numerous "sellers only" situations. Turnovers totalled just over 181 billion, with 382 million of this in the "arrangement" shares. The bond market, on the other hand, produced only a meagre IS280m. turnover.

Most active stocks
IDB reg. 5670 IS106488.3m. -189
Leumi stock 5487 IS10484.4m. -58
Hapoelim 3935 IS87286.2m. -92
Shares traded: IS1,003,375.4m.
Bonds: IS279,791.0m.

Gulf accident blight

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP). — A prominent Saudi Arabian traffic director has called on the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to cut down on car imports as a partial remedy for the traffic accidents, whose rate was "among the highest in the world." The total of traffic fatalities in the region was 1,043 in 1971. It shot up to 4,352 in 1983.

FAIR. — The parking lot at the Dolphinarium here will become a fairground for the week of April 14-21, featuring amusement park rides and performances by comedians, singers and dancers. Entrance will be free, and the fair will be open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays.

Hongkong shaken by company's 'Bermuda Plan'

HONGKONG (Reuters). — Plans by Hongkong's leading trading company to move to Bermuda stunned the British colony last week and sent the stock market plunging.

The announcement by Jardine Matheson that it will move its holding company to another British colony on the other side of the world, rocked Hongkong at a time when its future is being discussed by Britain and China.

A simultaneous decision by Hutchison Whampoa, another big trading company, to pay a massive and unprecedented bonus dividend rather than ploughing its profits back into the firms, was widely seen

by the media and financial circles as indicating a lack of faith in Hongkong.

Jardine chairman Simon Keswick directly linked the decision to move to Bermuda with uncertainty over the future of Hongkong, which Britain is due to hand back to China in 1997.

CONTRIBUTIONS. — A fund for low-interest loans for those in need of hearing aids in the Beersheba area was established early this month. Those who wish to contribute to the fund may send cheques to Shema, the organization for the education and rehabilitation of hearing-impaired children and youth, P.O.B. 4026, Beersheba.

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S.D.R.	167.1567	169.2424	

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES FOR 54.84

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS		BANKNOTES	
		PURCHASE	SALE	PURCHASE	SALE
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	157.4378	159.4022	156.0400	161.5900
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	225.8445	228.6625	223.8300	231.8000
GERMANY	MARK	60.3487	61.1017	59.8100	61.9400
FRANCE	FRANC	19.6110	19.8558	18.7900	20.1300
HOLLAND	GULDEN	33.4865	34.1540	33.0100	34.9000
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	72.6189	73.5200	71.9700	74.3500
SWEDEN	KRONA	30.2813	30.5344	29.8300	30.3200
NORWAY	KRONA	20.9005	21.1614	20.4400	21.4500
DENMARK	KRONA	16.4040	16.6108	16.0400	16.8400
FINLAND	MARK	28.1204	28.4713	27.9000	28.6600
CANADA	DOLLAR	123.0655	124.6011	120.9900	126.3100
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	147.0001	148.8349	146.5000	152.2400
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	126.6595	128.2399	126.7000	135.4600
BELGIUM	FRANC	29.5046	29.8730	29.0000	30.1100
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	85.8439	86.9130	85.0000	88.1100
ITALY	LIRE	92.3641	93.7900	92.1500	99.9300
JAPAN	YEN	700.9697	709.7159	694.7400	719.4600

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FOREIGN CURRENCY

Yesterday's foreign exchange rates against the Israeli Shekel, for U.S. dollar transactions under \$2000 and transactions of other currencies under the equivalent of \$500.

Selling		Buying	
U.S.	159.4025	157.4377	
British	228.7426	225.8445	
DM	61.0738	60.3487	
French FR	19.6110	19.8558	
Swiss FR	72.6189	73.5200	
Swedish KR	20.2813	20.5344	
Norwegian KR	21.1413	21.8803	
Danish KR	16.1830	16.4083	
Finish KR	28.1204	28.4713	
Canadian \$	124.6013	126.3055	
Australian \$	148.8349	147.0001	
Rand	127.8408	126.6595	
Belgian (10)	29.3823	29.4661	
Belgian FR (10)	28.7704	28.4157	
Austrian SH (10)	86.7498	85.6888	
Yan (100)	70.8306	70.0553	
Dollar Lira (1000)	96.5487	97.3338	
Spanish PT (100)	108.6629	105.3482	

GOLD: \$381.50/\$382.10

INTERBANK SPOT RATES:

U.S.	1.4350/50	per \$
DM	2.6095/05	per \$
Swiss FR	2.1658/98	per \$
French FR	8.0300/50	per \$
Italian Lira	1618.23/00	per \$
Yen	2.5440/50	per \$
Yen	224.73/83	per \$
Danish KR	9.5820/45	per \$
Norwegian KR	7.5380/00	per \$
Swedish KR	7.7550/50	per \$
Belgian FR	53.42/44	per \$

FORWARD RATES:

1 month	1.4373/87	2.4452/58	1.4000/12
3 months	1.4380/95	2.4512/68	2.4413/23
6 months	2.1532/37	2.1268/00	2.0892/10

Commercial Banks

(not part of "arrangement")		Change	% change
OHK	1917	20	-213
Martine 0.1	700	458	-38
Martine 0.5	277	1404	-15
N. American 1	5802	86	-49
N. American 5	4667	374	-129
N. Am. op 1	3767	319	-116
Danot 1	586	s.o.2	-31
Danot 5	95	4281	-8
Danot s.2	276	s.o.1	-15
First Int'l 0.5	425	2368	-46
FIBIO 5	334	2148	-626

Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")

IDB R	5670	1878	-189
IDB B R	3800	-260	-4.3
IDB P A	36000	-240	-7
IDB op 11	-	-	-
Unon 0.1	4330	157	-100
Discount B R	7600	15	-250
Discount B cn	7270	150	-310
Discount A R	900	3	n.e.
Discount B cn	2379	2138	-55
Murabi R	2379	11	-75
Murabi op 11	-	-	-
Murabi op 12	1776	124	n.e.
Murabi op 13	20809	-700	+3.5
Murabi op 14	1068	110	-25
Hapoelim R	3935	2218	-82
Hapoelim R	3935	115	-76
Hapoelim R	15801	1	-1
General A	10100	30	-20
General op 8	9901	-	-
General op 11	7865	-	-
General op 7	500	12	n.e.
Leumi 0.1	2487	4216	-58
Leumi op 9	3570	1	n.e.
Leumi op 11	985	50	-30
Finance Trade	3450	35	n.e.
Finance Trade	1855	9	n.e.
Finance Trade	3411	1	-59

Real Estate, Building

Oren	219	400	-24
Azaron Prop.	250	s.o.2	-13
Azaron op 1	207	s.o.2	-14
Elion	77	442	-8
Elion op 1	65	s.o.2	-8
El-Rox 1	165	s.o.2	-8
El-Rox 5	213	s.o.2	-5
Amnion	512	s.o.2	-13
Amnion op 1	171	s.o.1	-13
Africa R. 0.1	2401	s.o.1	-126
Africa R. 1.0	2363	s.o.1	-119
Azaron	208	s.o.2	-11
Azaron op 1	208	s.o.2	-11
Azaron op 2	635	140	-59
Arledon 0.1	210	260	-9
Ben Yakar 1	437	41	-6
Ben Yakar op	268	50	-25
Baranowitz 1	125	674	-17
Baranowitz 5	106	s.o.2	-5
Baranowitz op	85	40	-4
Danker	165	1120	-29
Drucker 1	248	s.o.1	-13
Drucker op	120	s.o.1	-5
Drucker op	126	85	-20

Mortgage Banks

Adanim 0.1	1325	s.o.1	-70
Gen. Mortgage	1390	464	-45
Gen. Mortgage	1437	55	-120
Carmel 1	917	4514	-54
Carmel op	-	-	-
Carmel deb	223	47	-11
Bitan	223	18	-248
Dev Mortgage	495	107	-55
Dev Mortgage	540	15	-60
Dev Mortgage	485	95	-120
Dev Mortgage	2430	16	-100
Independence	2430	16	-100
Tefahot R	1500	103	-167
Tefahot R	1305	127	-145
Tefahot deb. 1	593	46	-21
Tefahot deb. 2	309	46	-17
Jayour 1	249	s.o.1	-13
Jayour 5	238	11	-27
Jayour op	150	338	-40
Jayour op	309	s.o.2	-16

Financial Institutions

Shilon R	116	s.o.2	-6
Shilon op B	2145	s.o.2	-92
Agriculture A	14280	s.o.1	-1580
Agriculture R	16100	-	-
Leumi Ind R	1310	330	-45
Leumi Ind R	1315	40	-33
Dev. Mortgage R	8245	22	-916
Dev. Mortgage R	39068	-	-
Dev. Mortgage R	24000	00	-400
Dev. Mortgage R	23500	-	-
Dev. Mortgage R	21580	-	-
Dev. Mortgage R	6747	-	-
Contractions	151	441	-15
Tefahot	16150	-	-
Clal Lease 0.1	440	557	-16
Clal Lease 0.5	332	59	+11
Clal Lease deb	1056	59	+11

Insurance

Arish R	644	592	-72
Arish op	504	190	-80
Arish sub deb	4200	-	-
Ararat 0.1	1178	s.o.1	-62
Ararat 0.5 R	393	s.o.1	-47
Reimur 0.1 R	242	s.o.2	-13
Reimur 0.5 R	342	s.o.1	-18
Hadar 1	167	775	-18
Hadar 5	455	1083	-51
Hannach op 1	-	-	-
Phoenix 0.1 R	456	s.o.1	-24
Phoenix 0.5 R	730	57	+40
Hannach op 1	680	9	n.e.
Hannach op 2	394	s.o.1	-40
Yardenia 0.1 R	176	157	-14
Yardenia 0.5 R	174	s.o.1	-9
Memorah 1	1423	s.o.1	-75
Memorah 5	335	216	-15
Sahar 1	1300	17	-100
Securitas R	217	1260	-24
Zur R	650	84	-17
Zion Hold. 1	477	s.o.1	-25
Zion Hold. 5	180	372	-28

Trade & Services

Arayeh op	304	190	
Arayeh sub deb	4200	—	
Ararat 0.1 r	1178	s.o.1	
Ararat 0.5 h	370	s.o.1	
Reinsur 0.1 r	893	s.o.1	
Reinsur 0.5 r	242	s.o.2	
Hadar 1	362	s.o.1	
Hadar 5	147	375	
Hassneh r	459	1983	
Hassneh op 4		no trading	
Phoenix 0.1 r	1261	16	
Phoenix 0.5 r	456	s.o.1	
Hamishmar 1	730	57	
Hamishmar 5	680	9	
Hamishmar op	790	40	

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Erwin Frenkel
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Labour gears up

THE LABOUR PARTY, spared the ordeal of an internal contest, celebrated its new unity yesterday and confirmed Shimon Peres as its standard bearer.

For Mr. Peres it was a gratifying moment. Through the trial of two electoral defeats he has managed to keep the Labour Alignment intact. He has also withstood the guerrilla warfare waged against him for so long by Mr. Rabin. But above all he has not buckled under the pressure of the poisonous campaign that has been waged against him personally by the Likud for seven years.

It is well to remember that the Likud's rise to power in 1977 was not due simply to the defection of Labour votes to Yigael Yadin. Mr. Begin and his party managed to attract large numbers of voters, who in this way vented their indignation at a Labour Party from whom they now felt alienated.

After the election, Mr. Begin and his party colleagues deliberately sought to make Mr. Peres personally the symbol of a despised Labour movement. They encouraged their followers to channel their partisan passions against "Peres". This reached a high point in the election of 1981 when Mr. Peres, now the target of tomatoes and eggs, was portrayed by the Likud as the personification of Labour-Ashkenazi perfidy.

No other Labour Party personality was vilified in this manner. Mr. Peres mustered the courage and resilience to prevail.

The residue of this vicious campaign remains. Ethnic division, fanned by the Likud, still stalks the country. And fear of its malign effects was one of the reasons for the encouragement that was given to Mr. Navon to challenge Mr. Peres for Labour's mantle.

But 1984 is not 1981. Even the most vehement Likud supporters know in their heart of hearts that their party has now failed. And without Mr. Begin to rally the faltering, the Likud, led by a lacklustre Mr. Shamir, will have an uphill battle.

However, there is nothing to justify Labour complacency. The lesson of 1981 should be a constant reminder. Then too the polls showed Labour ahead. Then too the party's Central Committee met to install Mr. Peres in euphoric anticipation of victory. But the outcome was bitter defeat.

The Labour Party still has to persuade voters that seven years in opposition have wrought a change. That it is no longer the gnarled oligarchy of the past, that it is responsive to today's society, that it has acceptable policies to extricate the nation from the domestic and foreign troubles created by the Likud, and a credible leadership team to implement them.

That leadership team, Mr. Rabin, Mr. Navon with Mr. Peres at the top, is now in place. It will be supplemented by others like Haim Bar-Lev and Abba Eban. They will make a formidable combination. But they must roll up their sleeves and begin the arduous task not only of rallying their followers, but of winning over the resistant and reluctant.

The Likud, for its part, must still overcome the hurdle of Arik Sharon's challenge against Mr. Shamir. With Mr. Levy now firmly on the premier's side, this will not be a genuine contest, but merely a Sharon bid to displace Mr. Arens when — and if — the time comes.

After that, the lines for the election campaign will be drawn with two potential dangers: an overconfident opposition disposed to play safe, and a wounded government disposed to a saving desperate act.

Israel's condition today can afford neither.

THE LABOUR PARTY has a far richer history of and more experience with internal strife, personal showdowns and simmering conflicts than does Herut. In fact, by Labour standards, Herut is a rank amateur.

As a result, Labour politicians have developed acute sixth senses when it comes to internal party contests — their own or another party's.

If I had any doubts of this, they were fully dispelled in the past week.

When the possible challenge of Deputy Prime Minister David Levy against Premier Yitzhak Shamir loomed very large in Herut, that party's insiders were very concerned — some were even panicky — at what seemed like a very real danger of internal division right on the eve of Knesset elections.

But the Labour politicians I happened to talk to during the long days which Levy took to make up his mind knew better all the way. While Herut fretted, the Labourites told me with knowing smiles that Levy wouldn't run. They concluded that he just couldn't.

He had no chance of defeating Shamir, they argued, and was only putting on a grandstand act and playing very hard to get to extract as much political profit as he could from the situation. He would return to the fold with his position in the party considerably bolstered, having earned the gratitude of the rank and file for preventing fratricidal competition at an inopportune time.

Were the Herut insiders really taken in by Levy's tactics? And were the veterans of Labour's many wars indeed so astoundingly accurate and astute in their predictions?

Was Levy really a Herut Hamlet, gripped in the agonies of indecision, or should he, as some suggest, get an Oscar for the best performance of the year in the most carefully staged political cliff-hanger?

Was his decision really so difficult to make, or was he cold-bloodedly prevaricating? Were not all the reasons he cited for finally deciding not to challenge Shamir really very obvious to him many days ago, at least since former President Yitzhak Navon announced his own decision not to mount a challenge against Labour's chairman Shimon Peres?

When he announced his decision not to take Shamir on after all, Levy claimed that he had already made his mind up in favour of the challenge, but had had a sudden change of heart only 15 minutes before he entered Shamir's office. The second thoughts, according to Levy, all involved the need not to sow dissen-

Strategic retreat

By SARAH HONIG

tion in the party ranks and to rise in unison against the greater challenge to be presented by Labour on polling day. But Levy could have guessed weeks ago that a challenge against the leadership of a serving prime minister would not contribute to party unity.

ALTHOUGH the desire not to create an irreparable rift was certainly a factor in his considerations, the real reason behind Levy's decision goes deeper. Levy, it is openly admitted in Herut, has been a very frustrated man in past months, ever since Shamir took over as prime minister.

Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon is not Herut's only malcontent. Levy too was nursing his own grudge. Not only was he defeated by Shamir after the resignation of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, he was further miffed by being denied the coveted foreign affairs portfolio he felt was justly his, and even more so by being excluded from the cosy inner circle.

Important decisions were reached without him and he was never among the first to know about crucial developments. Levy was clearly being taken for granted by Shamir and those closest to him. Levy's prime motive in issuing the dare to Shamir was perhaps above all to serve notice that he cannot be taken for granted.

Here the payoff was immediate. As soon as Levy seemed about to toss his hat into the ring, he became very much sought after by Shamir.

Seemingly overnight, Shamir decided that Levy was worth consulting with after all. In recent days, Levy has been invited to more tête-à-tête conferences than ever before, and it almost appears as if Shamir cannot make a move without his trusted confidant — Levy.

Shamir's immediate spontaneous reaction upon hearing that Levy was not out to challenge him, despite all the fireworks and smoke of the last week, was in effect to issue an invitation to Levy to join the inner sanctum — thus far limited to Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad.

Levy recounted with a wry smile how Shamir declared that an in-destructible alliance has now been

forged between himself and Levy and how Levy would now be consulted on everything. Shamir realized what Levy really wanted, and Levy's smile — perhaps his only betrayal of genuine emotion — indicated that he had achieved what he set out to. He will no longer be kept in the dark. Even though an alliance with Shamir is not perhaps his fondest desire, he did secure his position as the clear number two, with whom Shamir must, whether he likes it or not, share power. Levy can no longer be ignored.

AS SOON AS Levy began his prolonged to-charge-or-not-to-charge agonies, Shamir reportedly made it clear to him that any position he wished in the party would be his and that if Shamir were to form the next government, Levy could have his choice of portfolios. Levy had nothing to lose by not challenging, but he had to make the threat seem as convincing as possible to extract the greatest possible share of power.

But if Levy did run, he had everything to lose. Shamir and, especially, his supporters, made it all perfectly clear. If Levy chose to fight and then lost, he would be doing away with all obligations to him. He would no longer be able to claim even the nominal number two position in the party. He may win second slot in the Herut central committee, but would lose any semblance of real power.

The Herut man at the top, as would be readily admitted in the party, has no control of who gets which slot on the Herut slate of Knesset candidates. The nearly 1,000 committee members choose the candidates by secret ballot and then rank them on the list by another series of secret ballots. This system yields surprises and cannot be manipulated by a party machine.

But Levy knew that he could be short of every last vestige of influence and all of his clout if he lost yet another bout with Shamir. Moreover, one loss may be unpleasant, but another in no more than six months carries with it a stigma. Being a loser was not a reputation Levy wanted to even chance gaining.

But that too is doubted in

political circles. Shamir, despite his lacklustre political personality, is doing far better in the polls than the entire Likud is.

Moreover, the latest poll has not really told Herut politicians anything they did not know. Only a month earlier, the pollsters were predicting 61 Knesset seats for Labour to 37 for the Likud. Within a few weeks the projected Labour win has shrunk to 55 seats. In the 1981 elections the Likud achieved a narrow lead over Labour despite a far worse starting point according to the polls.

The plain fact of the matter is that had Levy run against Shamir, he would also have been pitting himself against the predominant mood in the party. That mood could not be mistaken — it regarded any battle for Herut primacy at this juncture as a threat to the party's electoral prospects, if not outright betrayal. Levy did not only hear this from the Shamir side. These voices came from the very heart of his own camp, from among his most trusted personal aides and allies.

Only one of them, Avner Sarussi, egged him on to challenge Shamir. All the others were alarmed lest he do so. Those closest to him, like Amos Leibel, Asher Weiner and MKs Micha Reisner and Michael Kleiner, all vowed support if he was adamant on mounting a challenge, but cautioned against it. When on Wednesday evening, shortly before Levy was due to announce his decision to Shamir, they thought he was intent on a fight, they again appealed to him — not without a little panic — to reconsider.

ONE NAME that still looms very large in shaping the party mood is Begin's. The fact that he told the Army Radio last Tuesday that, to his mind, a showdown now is undesirable for Herut, that he chose this time to issue a personal invitation to Shamir to visit his home, and that his son Ze'ev Binyamin telephoned Levy shortly before his appointment with Shamir on Wednesday evening, are all seen as part of the anti-challenge pressure in the party.

It is not known what the younger Begin told Levy in their brief phone conversation, but rumours in Herut have it that he too — whether on his own or with his father's blessing — warned against a contest for the leadership.

As soon as Navon decided not to upset the internal peace in Labour, it was clear that Levy could not do otherwise in Herut, claim the Labour experts. For better or worse, the two main parties have become mirror images of each other. An orderly house in one almost precludes a serious conflict in the other.

Labour's skilled, if cynical, masters of internal warfare appear to have guessed right all along. Levy might indeed have taken everyone in Herut in, including those closest to him. His prospects of defeating Shamir were in fact even worse this time

round than six months ago. At the time, the two started on a roughly equal footing. This time, Shamir would be battling him as an incumbent prime minister, and it was highly unlikely that the Herut central committee members would vote to depose their party's premier.

Labour's worldly-wise, seasoned observers said from the start that Levy did not even contemplate tangle with a prime minister, much less strive to unseat him. It would be as unthinkable as for U.S. Vice President George Bush to seek to challenge President Ronald Reagan in the Republican primaries.

And, on top of it all, nothing has changed in the Herut Central Committee over the past few months to offer Levy even a hint of new hope. There is no time to hold new internal elections in the party and form a new central committee.

The present committee, elected some four years ago, has not changed in makeup since Levy made his last try and lost.

The one new factor was Sharon's overtures. The former defence minister, whose relations with Levy were always strained, to say the least, is said to have suggested he and Levy team up against Shamir in the second round of the vote next Thursday in the Herut Central Committee. Sharon contended that his support guaranteed Shamir's victory six months ago, and now he was ready to push Levy to the top if he could become Levy's number two.

But Levy has his doubts. It is far from clear just how much of a contribution Sharon really made to Shamir, and Sharon could bite quite heavily into what is presumed to be Levy's own power base of oriental voters and development tax representatives.

Moreover, Sharon could well do an about-turn and team up with Shamir again, leaving Levy high and dry. Besides, a deal with Sharon can even be a liability in Herut.

Now Levy can be expected to join forces with Shamir in the Central Committee showdown against Sharon. If Sharon should garner more than 10 to 15 per cent of the vote, all sides in the party would be very surprised indeed.

LEVY CITED a Modi'in Ezrahi poll conducted last month, when the Knesset was deliberating the early elections bill, which showed an 18-seat lead for Labour, as his reason for considering a challenge against Shamir. The argument was that he is a bigger vote-getter and the only man who could rescue the party from defeat.

In the final analysis he did what he could: he kept up the pressure as much as possible without causing an outright explosion. He issued threats, but when it came to the crunch, he avoided the actual confrontation.

As a very good Labour source remarked only hours before it was all over, when the tension was at its peak: "You'll learn that the boy who cries wolf sometimes gets away with it after all."

The writer is The Jerusalem Post's political reporter.

The photographs on pages 8 and 9 of today's Magazine are by David Brauner.

READERS' LETTERS

SCIENCE EXPO

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — One year from now, there will be a World Science Expo in Tsukuba, Japan, not far from Tokyo. This would be a golden opportunity to show the peaceful, progressive side of Israel, which has been systematically hidden by the one-sided Japanese press, to tens of millions of Japanese as well as many international visitors who are expected. One year ago, I was told by an intermediary quoting an unnamed "high Israeli authority" that Israel would participate, but Israel is absent from the list of participants just released. The presently committed participants include Iraq, which is in even more desperate economic straits than Israel and heavily preoccupied with a full-scale hot war that threatens the regime's survival, Libya and Iran. Would you like to have millions of Japanese come away from the Expo knowing more about scientific developments in those countries than in Israel?

It goes without saying that, if such an exposition were held in Europe or America, Israel would be there without fail. This is unfortunately not an isolated incident, but is part of what can only be described as a stubborn determination, ever since the state was founded, to largely ignore Asia in favour of concentrating on relations with areas of

traditionally heavy Jewish settlement.

As the world's economic and technological centre of gravity gradually shifts from the North Atlantic to the North Pacific, this stubbornness will have increasingly grave consequences for Israel's economic wellbeing and, in view of the increasing proportion of new technology originating in Asia, possibly even for the physical security of the state.

My understanding is that it is not too late for new participants to sign up and that the Expo organizers have not placed any obstacles in the way of Israel's participation. Based on a figure that I was quoted for Ocean Expo in 1975, the cost of constructing a small pavilion is very modest by the standards of government and/or private Jewish fund raising.

HAROLD SOLOMON
Tokyo.

TV LICENCE FEE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I was shocked by the new increase of the TV licence fee. The majority of people cannot possibly pay such an amount. Moreover, the last two years, the programmes have been mostly ridiculous trash.

HENRY CAVIN
Tel Aviv.

SWISS REFUGE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — My late friend, Aryeh Stern, and his wife Blanca reached Swiss refuge and were saved ("Rescue, Italian style" — March 9).

On the other hand, my parents and I, with a group of about 25, entered Swiss territory near Lanzo d'Intelvi on December 1, 1943, and somehow found our way to a Swiss border police post. Our personal data were duly recorded, including the answer to the question if we owned a current account at a Swiss bank. We were given a very meagre meal against payment.

The next day we were escorted into Italian territory patrolled by Fascist and German police. We were arrested and eventually transported to Auschwitz.

L.I.
K.Z. 174506
(Name and address supplied.)
Kiryat Tivon.

MONDALE VERSUS HART

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In his article, "New Cover Man" (March 9), Wolf Blitzer compares Gary Hart's record on Israel with that of Mr. Walter Mondale and leaves the impression that both were very good friends of Israel.

I refer you to Moshe Dayan's book "Breakthrough," on pages 59 and 60. Mr. Dayan recalls the great difficulties Mr. Mondale caused Israel and Mr. Begin during the meetings at Camp David. Mr. Mondale speaks with a forked tongue concerning his feelings about Israel. He was no friend of Israel's at the Camp David negotiations. On the other hand, Mr. Hart has voted every time in favour of Israel. He is a much better choice for president for all friends of Israel. And also, for the United States.

SAMUEL BLAIR
Boca Raton, Florida.

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- THE OSTERMAN WEEKEND — Robert Ludlum

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